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| **Tuesday, December 4, 2012 121204-1**  **In this Issue:**  **High Speed Rail Conference Update**  **110 ExpressLane Update: Customer Testimonials and Waze App**  **High Desert Corridor Community Meetings**  **Regional Connector Project**  **Division 13 Construction Notice** |
| **High Speed Rail Conference Update**  Yesterday, I attended and participated in the first day of High Speed Rail (HSR) Conference which was held here at Gateway. I also had the opportunity to meet with Dan Richard, Chair of the California High Speed Rail Authority, to discuss our future partnership and vision to connect with Los Angeles County. As you know, this exciting conference allows us to network with various business leaders, elected officials, conference attendees, speakers, sponsors and the media involved in the new HSR project. Some of the discussion topics included: Bringing High Speed Rail to America, California Mayors & High Speed Rail, High Speed Rail Around the World, a special presentation from Dan Richard, Chair of the California High Speed Rail Authority, California Statewide Rail Modernization Plan and Transit Oriented Development & Station Architecture Developments.  **110 ExpressLane Update: Customer Testimonials and Waze App**  21 days after the opening of ExpressLanes, several users express positive results regarding their daily commutes after trying the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes for the first time. While we continue to grow the number of Fastrak account openings, the user feedback remains a critical benchmark for evaluating our success. Below is a sampling of feedback received from our social media campaigns on Twitter and Facebook.  Twitter   * *“Used FasTrak for the 1st time. Normal Long Beach to AAASoCal headquarters trip: 65 minutes, today: 38! Thanks!”* * *“Love the L.A. express lane program, which is the only way to deliver reliable travel times across the region”* * *“Loving the ExpressLanes, when I need to see my L.A. Clippers!!!”* * *“Loooooved driving to work today using ExpressLanes!!! Waited forever for this!!”* * *“First time riding in the Metro Los Angeles ExpressLanes. Smooth sailing into downtown L.A.!”* * *“Metro ExpressLanes work! $2.25 to cut down 30 minutes of traffic, my GPS traffic tracker was all like "WHAAAAT HOW?"”*   Currently Metro ExpressLanes has 776 followers on its Twitter account: [www.twitter.com/expresslanes](http://www.twitter.com/expresslanes).  Facebook   * *“Another nice drive to work this morning. It is working great for me. Those 20 minutes saved plus limited traffic stress is worth it for me.”* * *“I can usually be found sitting in bumper to bumper traffic on the 110 every single weekend. I couldn't wait to get my transponder and when I finally used it I was quite impressed!!! For a couple dollars I saved 20 minutes getting to my destination. So glad Metro finally got an expresslane!!! Would love to have this option on all L.A. freeways!!!”* * *“I drove on the 110 N this morning without issue (and cut my commute time in half!) on my way home on the 110 S…”*   Currently Metro Express Lanes boasts nearly 700 likes and more than 125 people talking about it on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/expresslanes](http://www.facebook.com/expresslanes).  The Waze App  Waze is a free global positioning system and routing app whose goal is to help drivers avoid traffic delays. An enthusiastic FasTrak customer contacted Waze to request that they include the ExpressLanes as a separate time/travel route when comparing options for the driver. The most recent version of the app now includes the 110 ExpressLane travel time savings. Since Waze compares the total travel time of each route, you can generally see exactly how much time you will save in your trip by choosing the ExpressLanes over the regular lanes on the 110. For more info, visit [www.waze.com](http://www.waze.com).  **High Desert Corridor Community Meetings**  The High Desert Corridor (HDC) Project Team will be hosting community outreach meetings this week and next to provide an update on the preparation of the HDC Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/EIR). The update will be consistent with Board Chair Antonovich’s motion that the HDC be recognized as a Strategic Multipurpose Corridor that can accommodate a highway, a green energy production and/or transmission facility, and a high speed rail feeder service line.  There are four community meetings scheduled beginning tomorrow evening:   * Wednesday, December 5, 2012 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.   Lake Los Angeles Elementary School  16310 East Avenue Q  Palmdale, CA 93591   * Thursday, December 6, 2012 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.   Stater Bros Stadium  Mavericks Conference Room  12000 Stadium Road  Adelanto, CA 92301   * Monday December 10, 2012 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.\*   Endeavor School of Exploration  12403 Ridgecrest Road  Victorville, CA 92395   * Tuesday, December 11, 2012 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.\*   Larry Chimbole Cultural Center  Joshua Room  38350 Sierra Highway  Palmdale, CA 93350  \*For those unable to attend a meeting in person, the meetings on December 10, 2012 and December 11, 2012 will be streamed live. For more information visit [www.metro.net/hdc](http://www.metro.net/hdc).  **Regional Connector Project**  The Los Angeles Times is expected to include Metro’s Regional Connector project and the Downtown L.A. Streetcar project in a story on future transit plans for Downtown. Downtown residents approved a new tax district to help fund a downtown streetcar on Monday. Planning staff reported that the Regional Connector would improve access to both local and regional destinations by connecting light rail lines through the downtown area. Regional Connector, Metro Red/Purple Line subway and numerous bus lines would provide connections to the streetcar, helping create a network of transit alternatives to the automobile in downtown. The story is expected to run later this week.  **Division 13 Construction Notice**  Permanent Closure of Lyon Street  As part of the Metro Division 13 Bus Maintenance and Operations Facility Project, the contractor will be permanently closing Lyon Street from Cesar Chavez Avenue to the Twin Towers Jail Facility. This construction work is tentatively scheduled on Thursday, December 6, 2012. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/121204_Lyon_St_Closure_Construction_Notice.pdf).  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/121204_Lyon_St_Closure_Construction_Notice.pdf> | |
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