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| **Thursday, July 19, 2012 120719-1**  **In this Issue:**  **I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project**  **metro.net Update - New and Revised Interactive Maps**  **Expo Line Delays**  **Metro Red Line/Orange Line Pedestrian Tunnel** |
| **I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project**  The I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project, working with its construction contractor and partner agencies, has now selected September 29-30, 2012 as the date for the second I-405 freeway closure, popularly known as “Carmageddon II” to perform needed demolition of the remaining side of the Mulholland Bridge in the Sepulveda Pass.  Motorists throughout the State of California will be advised to “Plan Ahead, Avoid the Area, or Eat, Shop and Play Locally” to avoid generating extreme auto congestion in the project area and throughout the greater Los Angeles region. Transportation, law enforcement and emergency response agencies are giving the public advance notice to enable everyone to make all necessary advance travel arrangements to avoid the 405 closure area between the I-10 and U.S. 101 that weekend.  The characteristics of the second closure will be very similar to last year’s successful closure and demolition operation. On Friday, September 28, 2012 ramps along the 10-mile closure area will begin to be shut down as early as 7:00 p.m., and closure of individual freeway lanes will begin at 10:00 p.m. to ensure full freeway closure by midnight. The closure is scheduled to continue until 5:00 a.m. Monday morning, October 1, 2012. Ramps and connectors will be reopened by 6:00 a.m. During this closure, the Mulholland Bridge, I-405 freeway and access ramps will be closed. As with the previous I-405 closure, Sepulveda Boulevard is intended as an alternate route for local resident access only. Sepulveda Boulevard does not have the capacity to accommodate both local and diverted freeway traffic. Motorists should instead use alternate regional freeway routes to completely bypass the area. These include the 5, 15, 23, 55, 57, 101, 118, 126, 210, 605 and 710 freeways.  Motorists who must travel during this weekend are advised to plan ahead, monitor real-time traffic conditions prior to beginning their trips, and follow alternate routes that are provided. Motorists will be informed of the closure in advance by Caltrans-operated freeway message signs with coverage extending into neighboring counties and other metropolitan regions throughout the state.  Metro Media Relations has issued a [news release](http://www.metro.net/news/simple_pr/statewide-advance-notice-motorist-advisory-carmage/) announcing the impending date in efforts to give the public more than two months advance notice. As with the first closure, Metro will engage in a phased public outreach campaign that will include comprehensive saturation messaging that penetrates local, state, national information networks and leverages the resources of partner agencies. Several media outlets, including KABC 7, KCBS 2, KNX, Patch.com, Daily News and Los Angeles Times have inquired about the closure date, with stories expected to run beginning today.  **metro.net Update - New and Revised Interactive Maps**  Creative Services web staff have updated the [Go Metro Interactive Map](http://www.metro.net/interactives/go_metro/) adding the new Expo and Orange Line, new stations, revised bus connections, and more customer amenities such as parking, bike lockers, and bike racks. The map also links each station to Google Maps and YELP for destinations and recommendations near each station. The [Metro Orange Line Extension Service Interactive Map](http://www.metro.net/projects/orangeline/mol-interactive/) is a new map breaking down the various services of the newly opened Orange Line: Start of Service to 7:00 p.m. (North Hollywood Station and Chatsworth Station), Start of Service to 7:00 p.m. (North Hollywood Station and Warner Center Station), Weekday Shuttle Peak, and 7:00 p.m. to End of Service. Selecting a station will display detailed customer amenities information. Both maps utilize Google Maps technology and are usable on desktop, touchpads, and mobile devices.  **Expo Line Delays**  The Metro Expo Line experienced 30 minute service delays this afternoon due to two disabled trains between the 23rd Street Station and the Expo Park station. Both trains have damage to their pantographs. Crews are working to remove and repair the trains. As a result both tracks are blocked. Trains are operating from 7th Street Metro Center to 23rd Street station and back. Trains are operating from the Expo Vermont Station to Culver City and back. Metro has set up a bus bridge between the 23rd Street Station and the Expo Vermont station to transport patrons. Media Relations has supplied the information to the news media for broadcast.  **Metro Red Line/Orange Line Pedestrian Tunnel**  The Daily News has inquired about an announcement by Congressman Howard Berman reporting that Metro has received $10 million in federal funds for constructing an underground pedestrian passage between the North Hollywood Red Line Station and Metro Orange Line station. Metro staff confirmed that it expects to receive $10 million in federal funds. Because the project is presently being advertised and bidders are expected to provide their proposals within two weeks, the agency is currently in a blackout period. The project is expected to begin construction in March 2013 and will be completed within a year. When built, the tunnel will allow faster and safer passage for Metro customers connecting between Metro’s subway and BRT Line in the San Fernando Valley. The story is expected to run tomorrow. | |
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