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| **Monday, October 1, 2012121001-1****In this Issue:*** **USDOT Approves TIFIA Loan for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor**
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| **USDOT Approves TIFIA Loan for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor**Today, Fox News Business and Associated Press requested a Metro statement regarding the approval of a $545.9 million loan by U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project. Metro staff said that the, “Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan is a milestone in America Fast Forward, a blueprint for the future.” The Crenshaw/LAX project is an 8.5 mile light rail project with six new stations scheduled to begin construction in 2013 and to be completed by 2018.**Metro Volunteers**Staff and Metro Volunteers represented the agency at the Compton Back To School Fair and the Santa Monica Alt Car Expo on Saturday, September 29, 2012. Metro information passed out at these two events included monthly service council meetings, transit safety, TAP, Measure J, bus and rail schedules, ExpressLanes and Expo Line. Division 7 also dispatched a bus for display at the 2012 Alt Car Expo, which was attended by Metro Chair Michael Antonovich. Transitional duty staff will continue to pass out Metro information and promote bus and rail safety and during the week at rail stations and transit centers. Metro Volunteers promote public transit at 150 community events a year, reaching over half-a-million residents in the county. If you are interested in helping staff with a transportation information table at a neighborhood event for a couple of hours, please email mv@metro.net or call (213) 922-1341.**East San Fernando Valley Transit Project Briefing for Elected Officials & Community Meetings** Planning and Community Relations staff held a briefing last Friday for elected officials on the East San Fernando Valley Transit Project, one of the 12 Measure R transit projects.  Currently conducting an Alternatives Analysis, staff provided a preview of the presentation that will be provided at community update meetings which are scheduled to begin tomorrow night. Attending the briefing were representatives from the offices of State Senator Alex Padilla; State Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield; Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Director Zev Yaroslavsky; Los Angeles Council Members Tony Cardenas, Paul Koretz, Paul Krekorian, and Tom La Bonge; and LAUSD School Board Members Tamar Galatzan and Nury Martinez. Staff from the City of San Fernando also attended the briefing as well as a representative from the City of Los Angeles who is a co-lead with us on this study. The briefing provided a preview of the Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives and the Light Rail Alternatives under study, as well as the No Build and Transportation Systems Management Alternatives. At this point, no alternatives, other than the Street Car, are being eliminated from consideration.   There are four community meetings scheduled beginning tomorrow evening. Following these meetings, we will be completing the Alternatives Analysis and intend to provide an update to the City of San Fernando and the City of Los Angeles later this year. In early 2013, we intend to update the Board in advance of beginning the Draft environmental document for this project. The four community meetings are being held as follows: * Tuesday, October 2, 2012 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Sepulveda Middle School, 15330 Plummer Street, North Hills
* Thursday, October 4, 2012 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., San Fernando High School, 11133 O'Melveny Avenue, San Fernando
* Saturday, October 6, 2012 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Panorama High School, 8015 Van Nuys Boulevard, Panorama City
* Tuesday, October 9, 2012 3:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys

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