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| **Tuesday, September 25, 2012 120925-1**  **In this Issue:**  **New El Monte Station to Open Sunday, October 14, 2012**  **Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project**  **“Which Way L.A.” Focuses on Carmageddon II Complacency**  **Expo Phase 2 Construction Notice** |
| **New El Monte Station to Open Sunday, October 14, 2012**  Tomorrow, media relations will issue a news release noting that the El Monte Station will open to the public on Sunday, October 14, 2012. The upgrade to the El Monte facility, which first opened in 1973, is part of the Congestion Reduction Demonstration Program known as ExpressLanes and is funded by a $210 million federal grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The new $60 million El Monte Station consists of a new two story building that will house a public bus and terminal station with limited retail space, a customer service center and surface parking. Construction on the new facility began in September 2010. An official ribbon cutting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2012. The new El Monte Station opening to the public October 14, 2012 is twice the size of the old facility and has modern amenities including variable message signs, intercoms, closed circuit television, solar panels, wayfinding equipment and information displays, new elevators and escalators, a transit store, bike stations and lockers. Public art by renowned artist Donald Lipski also will be incorporated in the station as part of Metro’s public art program.  **Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project**  On Monday, September 24, 2012 the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor Project Director and the Construction Relations Team provided a project briefing to the Empowerment Congress West Area, Neighborhood Development Council where approximately 15 participants were in attendance. Staff provided a status update on the project as well as an overview of their efforts to secure night time noise variances for the project. Questions were also answered relative to the optional Leimert Park station. To date, the project has received the 5 night time noise variances requested through the City of Los Angeles Police Commission. Staff encouraged the public to stay connected to the project by signing up for the project’s database. Mrs. Linda Ricks from the Crenshaw Leadership Council attended the meeting.  **“Which Way L.A.” Focuses on Carmageddon II Complacency**  The popular “Which Way L.A.” radio show (89.9 FM) airing tonight at 7:00 p.m. will address concerns that the public may be complacent about the I-405 freeway closure because predictions of gridlock did not materialize last year. UCLA Professor Brian Taylor was on the show and said that Metro and others were successful in scaring people off the road last year but don’t expect people to stay home this year. He predicted higher traffic levels and also noted that as long as people stay away from the closure area, it shouldn’t be a problem. Marc Littman from Metro Media Relations countered that the threat of gridlock remains. There are 500,000 cars and trucks that go through the I-405 Sepulveda Pass corridor on a typical September weekend, and we still need to divert two thirds of that traffic or there could be traffic jams. Moreover, the demolition work is more extensive this year with more columns coming down and Caltrans has maintenance work scheduled on the closed freeway. However, Littman encouraged the public to take advantage of public transit and Destination Discounts at about 300 museums and other venues and added that there are new public transit options including the new Expo Line to Exposition Park. Another guest promoted “Artmageddon” activities in neighborhoods this weekend and praised Metro for partnering with them. Another guest talked about his “You Tube” moment with a sunset dinner experience on the empty freeway last year. Littman warned these stunts put local residents at risk because emergency vehicles could be blocked and the pranksters could get hit by construction vehicles. The California Highway Patrol is beefing up enforcement and anyone venturing into the closed freeway without authorization will be arrested. Littman also talked briefly about the new I-405 Sunset Bridge, with two new traffic lanes and more capacity, a positive event leading up to this weekend.  **Expo Phase 2 Construction Notice**  Construction of the Sepulveda Station Parking Structure  In preparation for construction of Phase 2 of the Expo Light Rail Line, work crews will begin construction of the Sepulveda Station Parking Structure in the City of Los Angeles. The work is being managed and performed by the Expo Phase 2 design-build contractor *Skanska-Rados Joint Venture* *(SRJV)*, and its subcontractors. Construction of the Sepulveda Station Parking Structure will begin on Monday, October 1, 2012 through September 27, 2013. Work hours are scheduled from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at 11214 West Exposition Boulevard. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_2jz4scos6s.pdf).  <http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_2jz4scos6s.pdf> | |
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