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| **Friday, November 22, 2013131122-1****In this Issue:****KNBC Investigates Metro ExpressLanes Toll Violations****Times Follow-Up Article on TAP/Gating of Rail Stations Pending****LA Times Travel Section Feature Story on Historic Union Station****I-405 Northbound Off-Ramp at Sunset to Re-Open on Monday, November 25, 2013****I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project Construction Notices****Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events** |
| **KNBC Investigates Metro ExpressLanes Toll Violations**KNBC Channel 4 is producing a story focusing on several motorists who have received incorrect notices of ExpressLanes toll violations. KNBC received complaints from several people, less than ten, who complained about the error. In each case, Metro dismissed the toll violation. Kathleen McCune, Director of Countywide Planning and Development in Congestion Reduction, explained that since the inception of ExpressLanes in November 2012 there have been approximately 18.5 million ExpressLanes trips taken and a total of 1.6 million toll violations notices sent to motorists, approximately 8.7% of all trips. About 1,700 or .11% of the notices have been dismissed by Metro because of image error. Reasons for the errors could include outdated information from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), glare and shadows on the license plates, and frames around license plates that sometimes block letters and numbers for an accurate read. The KNBC story is expected to run Monday, November 25, 2013. **Los Angeles Times Follow-Up Article on TAP/Gating of Rail Stations Pending**The Los Angeles Times is working on a follow-up story to the TAP/rail station gating article that ran Monday, November 18, 2013. The follow up story aims to identify what fare evasion consists of on Metro’s system, which has recently latched gates at several stations and has other stations scheduled undergo latching in the near future. This morning, Deputy CEO Paul Taylor, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s Transit Services Bureau, TAP, Scheduling, OMB and Media Relations staff met with two Times reporters and an editor. Staff explained there are significant issues that still must be resolved with the new TAP/gating data before we can draw conclusions about a possible sharp drop in subway ridership or quantify how much new revenue has been realized. In response to reporters’ questions, staff also explained that TAP and the traditional FTA method of estimating rail ridership using a rolling six month average that relies on actual passenger counts don’t compete. However, it takes our 24 schedule checkers six months to do all the on board counts so trends  like gate latching and gas prices spiking won’t be reflected in reports for several months. Staff underscored the whole gating effort and processing of TAP data is a transition for us and our customers but TAP is a promising tool that can enhance our ability to capture trends more quickly. A story is expected to run as early as this weekend.**Los Angeles Times Travel Section Feature Story on Historic Union Station**This Sunday, November 24, 2013, the Los Angeles Times Travel Section will run a feature story highlighting Union Station. The Times reporter interviewed Metro staff regarding Metro’s purchase of the station and future plans for the station. Historical data was given to the reporter on the history of the station, as well as how the station has grown over the years with the advancement of the region’s rail network. The article will print in the Sunday edition of the Los Angeles Times. **I-405 Northbound Off-Ramp at Sunset to Re-Open on Monday, November 25, 2013**The I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements project team plans to re-open the northbound I-405 off-ramp at Sunset Boulevard in West Los Angeles. The off-ramp is scheduled to be re-opened on Monday, November 25, 2013 by 6:00 a.m. This re-opening will end a 120-day ramp closure one week ahead of schedule. The new, seismically updated ramp will have nearly 60 percent additional length and capacity to store vehicles and segregate traffic from Sunset Boulevard and the northbound I-405. To view the complete news release, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2013/11/22/ramp-jam-to-end-at-sunset-boulevard-monday-morning-november-25/). **I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project Construction Notices**Southbound I-405 Freeway Closure between U.S. 101 and Getty Center DriveThe I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project contractor is scheduled to implement a full directional closure on the southbound I-405 freeway between the U.S. 101 and Getty Center Drive ramps. A full southbound directional freeway closure is scheduled for early Sunday morning, November 24, 2013 from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. The closure is dependent on favorable weather conditions. The contractor is scheduled to shift freeway lanes to the west in order to work on the freeway median. The closure area is approximately four miles long. Sepulveda Boulevard will remain open within the freeway closure limits and will be used as a detour route. To see the full story as posted on The Source, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2013/11/19/southbound-i-405-freeway-closure-between-u-s-101-and-getty-center-drive-planned-thursday-night-nov-21/).  Northbound I-405 Freeway Closure The I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project contractor is scheduled to implement a full directional closure on the northbound I-405 freeway between Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard Monday night, November 25, 2013 from 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. and between Wilshire Boulevard and Moraga Drive, Tuesday night, November 26, 2013 from 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. This closure will facilitate the realignment of lanes, to be shifted easterly, to accommodate work at the freeway median for roadway widening. During the first night of work, Monday, November 25, 2013, exit Santa Monica Boulevard, turn right to eastbound Santa Monica Boulevard, turn left to northbound Sepulveda Boulevard, turn right to eastbound Wilshire Boulevard, and reenter the I-405. During the second night, Tuesday, November 26, 2013, exit Wilshire Boulevard, head westbound and turn right onto northbound Sepulveda Boulevard, turn left onto the Moraga Drive I-405 on-ramp. The closure is dependent on favorable weather conditions. To see the full story as posted on The Source, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2013/11/22/northbound-i-405-freeway-closures-in-west-l-a-planned-nov-25-and-26/). <http://thesource.metro.net/2013/11/22/northbound-i-405-freeway-closures-in-west-l-a-planned-nov-25-and-26/>**Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events**Next week I will meet with the UITP – International Association of Public Transit Secretary General Alain Flausch. I will also have separate meetings with Richard Riordan, Supervisor Don Knabe and Chair Diane DuBois. |
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