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| **Tuesday, November 18, 2014 141118-1**  **In this Issue:**  **East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Community Meetings**  **Metro Hosts Event for Two New Veterans Programs**  **Public Hearings for the High Desert Corridor Draft EIS/EIR** |
| **East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Community Meetings**  Over the last 2 weeks we held three informational meetings to update the community on the status of the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project. Currently in the environmental study phase, the project is evaluating options to improve public transit along Van Nuys Boulevard and San Fernando Road in the East San Fernando Valley.  Alternatives being considered include Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Low-Floor Light Rail/Tram, and Light Rail Transit (LRT). Over 150 people attended the meetings to learn more about the project, its study process, schedule, and viewed conceptual renderings of how the alternatives might fit within the corridor’s built environment. Elected officials attending the meetings included City of San Fernando Mayor Pro Tem Robert Gonzalez, and Council Members Jess Avila and Antonio Lopez. Representatives for US Congressman Brad Sherman, Metro Board Chair and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, and Los Angeles Councilmembers Nury Martinez, Tom LaBonge and Felipe Fuentes also attended the meetings. Comments received included support for a light rail transit, adding bicycle lanes in the corridor on an alternate route, ensuring connectivity to the future Sepulveda Pass Project, and support for ensuring that bus operations continue to provide effective transit to the communities south of the Metro Orange Line through Sherman Oaks and north of San Fernando Road through Pacoima and Lake View Terrace if a rail alternative is selected. The Project’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report is scheduled to be completed in mid-2015. For the meeting’s Powerpoint presentation and Fact Sheet, please click [here](http://www.metro.net/projects/east-sfv/).  **Metro Hosts Event for Two New Veterans Programs**  Today, representatives of Metro Board Chair and City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Metro Board Vice-Chairman and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas’ offices, joined me before an audience of over 200 veterans and representative organizations to introduce the two new Metro initiatives created for of our veteran community. The Disabled Veteran’s Business Enterprise (DVBE) program and GoVet511.com will be an addition to our established Vet Hire program. In recognition of the sacrifices made by our military, Metro has established a 5-point scoring preference and a 3% contracting goal on non-federally funded contracts for construction, goods, and services. The 5-point evaluation scoring preference is applicable for firms with principal offices located and certified in California. Metro’s goal with the DVBE program is to increase veteran participation in the Metro procurement process. GoVet511.com is a state-of-the-art app that directs veterans to the many services that will help them navigate Los Angeles County successfully. These new programs are subject to Metro’s vigorous standards, all of which increase transparency and commitment to goals and usage of certified small businesses on all Metro projects. Presentations were made by Joseph Chicas of the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office of Veteran’s Affairs; Jim Butler of Governor Brown’s Office; Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary, Veteran’s Services, CalVet; and a success story highlight by Rene Cota, Chapter President of Elite and President of CMG Alliance. For a photo of the event, please click [here](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/141118_Veterans_1.jpg).  **Public Hearings for the High Desert Corridor Draft EIS/EIR**  Over the last two weeks, close to 375 residents of the Antelope and Victor Valleys participated in one of the four public hearings to provide comments on the High Desert Corridor Draft EIS/EIR. The public hearings were part of the formal process to review the project’s alternatives and impacts along the corridor. The High Desert Corridor covers approximately 63 miles, connecting SR-14 and the Palmdale Transportation Center in Los Angele County with US-395, I-15, Bear Valley Road and SR-18 in San Bernardino County. The project looks at such alternatives as a new freeway/expressway, high speed rail feeder service, bikeways, green energy and toll road options. The comment period for the Draft EIS/EIR runs until Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Comments and questions will be incorporated into the Final EIS/EIR to be released in 2015. For more details and information, please click [here](http://www.metro.net/projects/high-desert-corridor/). | |
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