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| **Wednesday, November 19, 2014141119-1****In this Issue:****Town Council Meetings for Northwest 138 Corridor (SR-138)****Call for Projects Process Survey****Metrolink/Metro Suicide Prevention Media Event** |
| **Town Council Meetings for Northwest 138 Corridor (SR-138)**Metro staff concluded a series of meetings with the Town Councils in northern Los Angeles County to discuss design alternatives for the Northwest 138 Corridor (SR-138) Project. Situated in the Antelope Valley in the Northwest corner of Los Angeles County, just south of the Kern County border, SR-138 extends 36 miles from the I-5 (Gorman) to SR-14 (Lancaster). Metro and Caltrans are currently preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/EIR) that is considering a variety of possible improvements for this corridor. The purpose of this round of public presentations was to gain feedback on the preliminary engineering efforts and design alternatives. Over the past three months, meetings were held with the Association of Rural Town Councils, Neenach/Oso Town Council, Fairmont Town Council, Antelope Acres Town Councils (Elected and Original), and Three Points/Liebre Town Council. At those meetings stakeholders provided feedback on such issues as preferred access points to the new facility, route alternatives, truck traffic and safety. Close to 114 residents attended the Town Council meetings in communities that range in population from 200 to 2,800.  Caltrans and Metro are planning to release the Draft EIS/EIR in late 2015. For more details and information, please click [here](http://www.metro.net/projects/nw138/).**Call for Projects Process Survey**On November 6, 2014 Metro released a survey to cities, councils of government, and other stakeholders to solicit feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the Call for Projects process. This is in response to a motion from the Metro Board of Directors at its October 2014 Board meeting, directing staff to revise and improve future Call for Projects past the 2015 Call. The completed surveys are due back to Metro on Wednesday, December 19,2014. The surveys were distributed via US mail and e-mail to city managers, planning directors, public works directors, and transportation managers at the 89 jurisdictions within Los Angeles County. In addition, surveys were sent to the general managers of transit operators, members of Metro’s Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and its subcommittees, and various other parties who have asked to be included in the Call for Projects process.**Metro/Metrolink Suicide Prevention Media Event**This morning,I joined Metrolink Board Chair Larry McCallon and Didi Hirsch Mental Services CEO Dr. Kita Curry to hold a joint news conference announcing Metrolink’s comprehensive campaign to prevent suicides. The issue is particularly timely as many people feel depressed during the holiday season. Chair McCallon was Master of Ceremonies and spoke on the dramatic impact that suicide has not only on the family of the person who takes their life but also on the rail personnel who operate trains and staff that must investigate the scene. I spoke of Metro’s successful suicide prevention campaign, in coordination with the Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services, which has resulted in a dramatic reduction in suicides system wide on Metro Rail since its inception September 2013. Dr. Kita Curry delivered the message that help is available for people in need 24/7 and outreach is proven to save lives. For a photo and the complete story as posted on The Source, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2014/11/19/metro-highlights-ongoing-anti-suicide-campaign-during-holiday-season/). |
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