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| **Thursday, October 2, 2014 141002-1**  **In this Issue:**  **Metro to Run Enhanced Weekend Service for USC & UCLA Football, Dodgers Postseason Baseball and CicLAvia**  **Future Fare Collection Kickoff**  **Public Hearings Concluded on Draft EIS/EIR for Proposed Eastside Rail Extension**  **Expo Phase II Construction Notice** |
| **Metro to Run Enhanced Weekend Service for USC & UCLA Football, Dodgers Postseason Baseball and CicLAvia**  USC Football, UCLA Football and Dodger Baseball  On Saturday, October 4, 2014, Metro will increase service and staffing levels to serve three major sporting events in the region, including #16 nationally ranked USC vs. Arizona State at the Coliseum, #8 UCLA vs. Utah at the Rose Bowl and the Dodgers vs. St. Louis in Game 2 of the National League Divisional Series at Dodger Stadium. During the playoffs, [Dodger Stadium Express](http://www.metro.net/riding/dodger-stadium-express/) will run a new route from Harbor/Gateway Transit Center in addition to the popular Union Station service. Metro staff and law enforcement will be strategically located throughout the system in anticipation of increased ridership.  As Expo Line station parking is expected fill up early, Metro has partnered with Caltrans to direct park-and-ride customers to stations with available parking via I-10 Santa Monica Freeway’s overhead dynamic message signs (DMS).  Metro presents CicLAvia: Heart of LA  On Sunday, October 5, 2014, Metro will operate longer length trains for CicLAvia: Heart of LA, encouraging the use of active transportation options and wellness through car-free streets. This free event, which attracts tens of thousands of participants, runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will be served by numerous Metro Rail stations along the Red, Purple and Gold Lines. Metro staff will again be placed at key locations to assist customers with fare purchasing and boarding trains with bikes.  Please click on the following links for more information:   * [CicLAvia Website](http://www.ciclavia.org/) * [Go Metro to CicLAvia](http://www.metro.net/service/advisories/update/special/976/) * [Tips for taking Bikes on Metro](http://www.metro.net/bikes/)   **Future Fare Collection Kickoff**  Yesterday, Metro joined leaders from various transit systems throughout the region to launch a Future Fare Collection kickoff. Agencies in attendance included AVTA, Foothill, Gardena, Glendale, LADOT, Long Beach, Metrolink, Montebello, Santa Clarita, OCTA and Torrance. Metro Board of Director Deputies were also in attendance as well as a professional facilitator who led the group through a collaborative process that identified common goals, challenges and future aspirations for the next regionally compatible fare system. Participants will meet again in November, 2014 to continue the process of designing a future system that makes the most sense for our customers and agencies. Next steps include polling participating agencies on current projects to obtain a benchmark on where to begin the planning process, and to create a working timeline.  **Public Hearings Concluded on Draft EIS/EIR for Proposed Eastside Rail Extension**  Last night, Metro conducted the fourth and final public hearing to receive public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for a proposed extension of the Metro Gold Line Eastside light rail system from the Atlantic/Pomona Gold Line Station in East Los Angeles to either the City of South El Monte (SR 60 Alternative) or the City of Whittier (Washington Boulevard Alternative). The Draft EIS/EIR also analyzes a no-build option and a Transportation Systems Management alternative that identifies bus corridor improvements. The hearings were held last Saturday morning in Pico Rivera and the past three evenings in the cities of Montebello, Whittier and South El Monte. Each of the public hearings was preceded by a 30 minute open house, where residents could see project boards, talk to staff, and view the Draft EIS/EIR.  The four hearings attracted over 525 attendees, with approximately 125 people providing public comments on the Draft EIS/EIR. Attendees included representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, State Senator Ed Hernandez, State Assembly members Ed Chau and Christina Garcia, and a number of Mayors and Council members from the cities of El Monte, La Habra, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Rosemead, South El Monte, and Whittier. Representatives from partner agencies Caltrans and the EPA also attended, as well as reporters with the Eastern Publication Group, Whittier Daily News and the Whittier College newspaper, and the Chinese Daily News (World Journal).  There was support for each of the proposed alternatives throughout the hearings, and some commented they’d like to see both alternatives built. Other comments were made concerning traffic impacts along Washington Blvd, safety/security concerns at stations, concerns about potential property acquisitions and the aerial structure along Garfield Avenue. In addition, people commented on the benefits the project would provide, including increasing transit access and mobility options - especially for the elderly, youth and low income residents - and that Light Rail Transit would serve as a catalyst for economic development and job growth in the region.  The draft environmental document was released August 22, 2014 with a 60-day public comment period concluding at 5:00 p.m. on October 21, 2014. Metro staff is scheduled to present a summary of the technical analysis and comments received, along with a recommended Locally Preferred Alternative, to the Metro Board of Directors in November, where the Board will be asked to decide how to proceed. To submit comments, obtain more information about the project, and to view the Draft EIS/EIR, please click [here](http://simplesend.com/simple/t.asp?S=336&ID=74119&NL=4423&N=91410&SI=5818921&URL=http://www.metro.net/projects/eastside_phase2/).  **Expo Phase II Construction Notice**  Track and Roadway Improvements As part of the construction of Phase 2 of the Expo Light Rail Line, work crews will perform track work and roadway improvements along Westwood Boulevard. The work is being managed and performed by the Expo Phase 2 design-build contractor Skanska-Rados, Joint Venture (SRJV), and its subcontractors. Full closures are scheduled from Friday, October 3, 2014 at 9:00 p.m. through Monday, October 6, 2014 at 6:00 a.m. For the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://www.buildexpo.org/wp-content/uploads/091914-EXPO-P2-CONSTRUCTION-NOTICE-Westwood-Weekend-Closures-.pdf). | |
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