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| **Tuesday, September 30, 2014140930-1****In this Issue:****Regional Connector Project Groundbreaking in Little Tokyo****Take Metrolink to Angel Stadium for the American League Postseason** |
| **Regional Connector Project Groundbreaking in Little Tokyo**This morning, Metro held the official groundbreaking for the $1.42-billion [Regional Connector](http://www.metro.net/projects/connector/) project in Little Tokyo. I want to thank and recognize US Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Congresswoman Janice Hahn, Assemblyman Richard Bloom; CTC Commissioner Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, CTC Commissioner Fran Inman, Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti, Metro Board Vice Chair Mark Ridley-Thomas, Director Don Knabe, Director Gloria Molina, Director Michael Antonovich, Director Zev Yaroslavsky, Director Paul Krekorian, Director Ara Najarian, and LA City Councilman José Huizar for their support and participation. I also want to thank our emcee, Actor, Director and community activist George Takei; Chair of the Regional Connector Community Leadership Council Russell Brown; and Reverend William Briones from Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. The 1.9-mile underground light rail line will link the Blue, Expo and Gold Lines, allowing for faster and more frequent service on Metro’s light rail lines to and through downtown Los Angeles. For more information on and photos from today’s ceremony as posted on The Source, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2014/09/30/ground-is-broken-for-regional-connector-project-to-link-blue-expo-and-gold-lines/) Groundbreaking Highlights Construction Careers Policy and Project Labor AgreementAt the groundbreaking, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx had a chance to meet with a Laborer Apprentice.  After working for Raydos and Exaro, the apprentice was hired to work for Brutoco on the Regional Connector Advanced Utility Relocation project, and is on the excavating and shoring crew.  Coming from a past of legal troubles and periods of unemployment, the apprentice is now one of the individuals benefiting from Metro’s groundbreaking Construction Careers Policy and Project Labor Agreement Since he has had an opportunity to join the laborer’s union, Local 300, Fernando has been able to support and provide stability for his family. As a single father of three children, he is grateful for this life changing opportunity, wants to learn all he can about underground utilities, and plans on enjoying a long career with Local 300. **Zocalo Public Square and Metro host Panel on What Can be Done to Speed up Traffic**Last night, Zocalo Public Square and Metro held a panel discussion at the Petersen Automotive Museum to discuss what, if anything, can be done to speed up traffic in our region? I was joined on the panel by UCLA Director of Transportation Studies Brian Taylor and Executive Director of Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic (FAST), Hilary Norton. KCRW’s Kajon Cermac moderated the discussion. Topics included Metro’s ExpressLanes, future tolling scenarios, affordability, freeway projects, and youth engagement towards transit. For a write up of the event, please visit the Zocalo website [here](http://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2014/09/30/this-is-the-future-of-your-l-a-rush-hour/events/the-takeaway/). **Take Metrolink to Angel Stadium for the American League Postseason**[Metrolink’s Angels Express](http://www.octa.net/Metrolink/OCTA-Promotions/Angels-Express/) will be running for the post-season with train service between Los Angeles Union Station and the ballpark in Anaheim with stops at Norwalk, Buena Park and Fullerton. The train station is in the parking lot for the stadium (beyond left field) and is a short walk from the ballpark. For more information on this service as posted on The Source, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2014/09/29/metrolinks-angels-express-will-run-for-playoff-games-beginning-thursday/).  |
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