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| **U.S. House of Representatives Passes Stop Gap Spending Bill**Today, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted, by a vote of 217 to 190, a continuing resolution that will permit the federal government to avoid a shutdown next Wednesday, the last day of the fiscal year. To date, Congress has not cleared any of the twelve fiscal year 2010 appropriations bills. Included in the legislation adopted today is a provision that would prevent the nation’s highway programs from expiring, given that the current surface transportation legislation expires on September 30, 2009.**Metro To Hold Scoping Meetings In October For Wilshire BRT**Media Relations issued a news release today noting that four scoping meetings will be held between October 5, 2009 and October 13, 2009 along the Wilshire Corridor of Los Angeles to discuss the proposed Bus Rapid Transit project on Wilshire Boulevard and solicit public comment.The release also notes that Metro, the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County are considering the feasibility of implementing a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project on Wilshire Boulevard. This joint effort will be evaluated through the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA). The EIR/EA which will be prepared in compliance with state and federal environmental requirements, will examine the potential for dedicated curbside bus lanes during the morning and evening rush hours along Wilshire Boulevard from just west of the I-110 freeway to the Santa Monica city line, excluding the City of Beverly Hills.Evaluation of the Wilshire BRT Project began in November 2008 as part of preparing an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment. An EIR/EA is now being prepared as a consequence of input received at several community meetings held along the corridor at that time, additional public input and technical analysis that has been conducted.**News Release Link**: <http://www.metro.net/news_info/press/Metro_153.htm>**2009 Bus Roadeo Media Day Event**Today, I participated in a media day event to promote the upcoming 2009 Bus Roadeo event planned for this weekend at the Santa Anita Race Track. I drove a vintage 1958 bus through the obstacle course and cleared the barrel test successfully. Several media representatives also drove buses to test their skills. Media in attendance at the event included Ch. 34, Hoy Newspaper, Sing Tao Newspaper, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune and the Pasadena Star News. Media Relations also sent out photos of the event preview to the Chinese Daily News, Korean Daily News, Eastern Group Publications, South Pasadena Review and Asian Pacific Newspaper. Stories are expected to run today and tomorrow.**Metro in the Community** This weekend, Metro Volunteers will be helping out at the annual Bus Roadeo competition at the Santa Anita Racetrack where they will coordinate the House of Games booth and also have families sign up for the Metro's Got Talent contest. Metro Volunteers have been busy over the last few weeks as well. On the weekend of September 12th & 13th, we celebrated Mexican Independence Day and supported other public activities. The Volunteers and Transit Services Bureau staff hosted an information table for the Fiestas Patrias Festival at Olvera Street across from Union Station. Our poppy articulated Metro bus was a major attraction in the East Los Angeles Parade where we also distributed ridership and safety materials and promoted the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension.  In other activities, our volunteers were in South Los Angeles near the Rosa Parks Station participating in the Macedonia Church Back to School Fair. Across town we had other volunteers at UCLA talking to residents attending the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute about the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project and how to get around on Metro as well as other projects. And, on Saturday, September 19th, we supported a resource fair at the Crenshaw Christian Center and promoted bus and rail ridership.  **Next Week’s Procurement Postings** IFB on Graffiti Abatement ServicesProcurement will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) next week to provide as-needed graffiti abatement services for property on Metro’s bus and rail locations. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from September 28, 2009 to February 1, 2010.Graffiti abatement services are needed to alleviate the negative visual impact on system patrons and the public at large by removing graffiti on structures such as concrete retaining walls, columns, bridges, wayside equipment, facility rooms and vacant facilities.Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Nicole Dang, Assistant Contract Administrator at (213) 922-7438.**Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events**Next week, I will be attending a celebratory luncheon honoring our dedicated retirees at Division 5. I will also be meeting with the new Executive Director for the Orange Line Development Authority, Michael R. Kodama. In addition, I will be meeting with Director Molina and attending the Expo Meeting. I will also be participating in the High Speed Rail Press Conference at Union Station.  |
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