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| Tues**day, September 29, 2009****20090929-1**In this issue:* **Update: Possible Rescission of Federal Transportation Funds**
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| **Update: Possible Rescission of Federal Transportation Funds**Today, the U.S. Senate is continuing to seek the repeal of the rescission of federal transportation funds that was not included in a three month extension of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) adopted by the House of Representatives earlier this month. We fully support the Senate’s effort to repeal the rescission. Senate staff has indicated that the repeal of the rescission is a priority for both Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Senator Kit Bond (R-MO). The House has thus far resisted efforts to repeal the rescission, citing budgetary restrictions. In a related note, the Senate bill extending SAFETEA-LU may be reduced from 18 months to three months if language repealing the rescission of federal transportation funds is accepted by the House. Metro Government Relations staff is in Washington, DC working with our federal advocates on this matter. As this issue continues to be considered by Congress I will keep the Board fully apprised.**U.S. Senate Committee to Release Climate Change Bill Tomorrow**The U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, which is chaired by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) will release its version of a climate change bill tomorrow. Our agency, in cooperation with regional and national transportation agencies, has sought to include language in the climate change bill that sets-aside 10% of the bill’s revenue from a cap and trade system for public transportation.  Senator Boxer’s bill will reportedly seek a 20% cut in carbon emissions by 2020. Reports indicate that her draft legislation may not outline how the federal government will distribute billions in dollars worth of emissions allowances that will be created by a cap and trade system.  Metro Government Relations will closely monitor the release of the climate change bill tomorrow. I will keep the Board apprised of how the bill would impact our agency.<http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/DRAFT%20Boxer-Kerry%20092909.pdf>**Tax Commission Releases Final Report: Governor Officially Calls for a 6th Extraordinary Legislative Session**The California Commission on the 21st Century Economy (Tax Commission) released their final recommendations to the Governor and legislature this morning in a press conference held with the Governor. Joined by Commission Chairman Parsky and others, the Governor officially called for a 6th extraordinary session of the legislature to address the recommendations made by the Commission today. The report includes the following recommendations:* Reduce Personal Income Tax (PIT) for every taxpayer.
* Eliminate the corporation tax and minimum tax.
* Establish a business net receipts tax (BNRT).
* Eliminate the state general purpose sales tax – Eliminate the current 5% state sales tax, with the exception of the sales tax on gas and diesel fuels which would continue to be dedicated to transportation. Elimination of the sales tax would phase in over five years. Key to this recommendation is a provision advocated by Metro and others to maintain the sales tax on gas which funds transportation programs.

Any remaining items that were discussed by the Commission but failed to generate the necessary support were included in the Commission’s report but not recognized in the final recommendations of sections 1-3. The work now shifts to the legislature, which is expected to evaluate the Commission’s report and determine next steps related to forming the special session within the next week or so. When calling for the special session, the Governor expressed his desire to have the Commission’s recommendations acted on before the end of the year.I have attached a copy of the Commission’s report and the Governor’s press release for your review. For a full reading of the Commission’s report, a webcast replay of the press conference and additional Commission materials, go to <http://www.cotce.ca.gov/><http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/Commission_on_the_21st_Century_Economy-Final_Report.pdf><http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/Final_Report-Press_Release.pdf>**Metro Gold Line Pre-Revenue Testing** Beginning Sunday, October 4, 2009, we will move into the pre-revenue testing phase of the Gold Line Eastside Extension. The Pre-Revenue testing is designed to simulate revenue service operations on the new segment, combining it with the revenue service already provided between Union Station and Sierra Madre Villa Station. Southbound trains will run in revenue service from Sierra Madre Villa Station to Union Station.  Once passengers have alighted, the train will continue in non-revenue test service from Union Station to Atlantic Station. In turn, northbound trains will run from Atlantic Station to Union Station in non-revenue test service. Upon arrival at Union, trains will board passengers and continue in revenue service to Sierra Madre Villa Station.  The Los Angeles County Sheriff Department and Metro Transit Security will provide assistance at Union Station to ensure that all passengers have alighted the southbound trains.  The first two sweep trains will be scheduled to depart Union Station southbound to Atlantic Station at 3:15 a.m. and 3:20 a.m. every day.   Trains in test operation simulating scheduled service are scheduled: First Trains (every day)Union Station to Atlantic Station - 3:40 a.m. departureAtlantic Station to Union Station - 4:21 a.m. departure Last Trains (every day)Union Station to Atlantic Station - 12:14 a.m. departureAtlantic Station to Union Station - 12:45 a.m. departure Trains in revenue operation are scheduled: First Trains (every day)Union Station to Sierra Madre Villa Station - 3:40 a.m. departureSierra Madre Villa Station to Union Station - 4:36 a.m. departure Last Trains (every day)Union Station to Sierra Madre Villa Station - 11:54 p.m. departureSierra Madre Villa Station to Union Station - 12:40 a.m. departure Trains will run: WeekdaysAM Peaks - every 7-8 minutesMid-day - every 12 minutesPM Peaks - every 7-8 minutesNights - every 20 minutes Saturdays, Sundays and HolidaysEarly morning - every 15-20 minutesMid-morning / afternoon / early evening - every 12 minutesNights - every 20 minutes There will be changes to the current revenue schedule between Union Station and Sierra Madre Villa Station. Train Operators will begin making announcements on board trains on Wednesday, September 30, 2009, alerting our passengers. Click here to see the new timetable which is posted on the metro.net website.  <http://www.metro.net/news_info/press/Metro_154.htm>**CHP Terminal Inspection**Today, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Motor Carrier Team from the Los Angeles Southern Division performed a "Level I" annual terminal inspection at Division 6 as required by California Vehicle Code, Section 34501. Fourteen buses were randomly selected as they returned from service and were inspected for safety and regulatory compliance against the California Code of Regulations, Title 13 and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance out of Service Guide. Upon completion of the inspection, Division 6 received a "Satisfactory" rating. |
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