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| **Wednesday, September 30, 2009**  **20090930-1**  In this issue:   * **U.S. Senate Adopts Continuing Resolution that Keeps Transportation Funds Flowing and May Act on Rescission Issue Tonight** * **The Highway Program Advisory Committee Meeting** * **Supreme Court Denies State’s Appeal of the Transit Association Lawsuit** * **Antelope Valley Transportation Summit** * **Media Release on 13TH Annual Golden Pylon Awards for Traffic Reports** * **Mayor Holds News Conference on Clean Tech Job Creation** |
| **U.S. Senate Adopts Continuing Resolution that Keeps Transportation Funds Flowing and May Act on Rescission Issue Tonight**    This evening, the Senate adopted a continuing resolution that keeps federal agencies funded through October 31, 2009. The Senate also adopted legislation to allow new contract authority to be apportioned from the Highway Trust Fund. Later tonight, the Senate may vote on a three month extension of SAFETEA-LU. This extension would also reportedly include a repeal of the $8.7 billion highway rescission included in an extension bill adopted by the House earlier this month. Metro Government Relations staff has been working on Capitol Hill this week to support the efforts of Senator Boxer and others to repeal the rescission of federal transportation funding.  **The Highway Program Advisory Committee Meeting**  The Highway Advisory Committee held its sixth meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2009. At the meeting, the Committee concurred with both the clarification on project eligibility for highway **operational improvement and ramp/interchange improvements** as well as the definition of **highway project completion for Measure R highway funds**. Further, they provided minor comments on the highway project funding **strategy** and **schedule**. All of this work to date will be incorporated into the draft Long Range Transportation Plan.  The Committee will continue to meet on an as-needed basis.  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/DefinitionforMeasureRHighwayOperationalImprovements.pdf>  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/HwyFundingStrategy6yrperiodsDRAFT.pdf>  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/MeasRHwyprojsScenarioC.pdf>  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/MeasRHwyprojsScenarioD.pdf>  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/ProjectCompletionDefinition.pdf>  **Supreme Court Denies State’s Appeal of the Transit Association Lawsuit**  The California State Supreme Court today denied the State’s appeal of the lawsuit filed by the California Transit Association (CTA) regarding the State’s transfer of public transit funds in the State Budget. This means that the Court of Appeal decision in favor of CTA stands as law. The exact implications of this decision are not known at this point and we will be working with CTA to discuss our next steps.  **Antelope Valley Transportation Summit**  Today, Supervisor Antonovich held his quarterly Antelope Valley Transportation Summit in the City of Lancaster. Representatives from the Cities of Lancaster, Palmdale & Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Department, California Highway Patrol, Antelope Valley Transit Authority, various Antelope Valley Town Councils, State Assemblymember Steve Knight and Caltrans attended. We were represented by both Planning and Government Relations staff at the event.  The purpose of the Summit was to brief Supervisor Antonovich, city elected officials and their representatives as well as members of Town Councils on the status of North County transportation projects, including the I-5/SR-14 Interchange and the SR-138 widening project. The event served as a forum for this type of communication and coordination.  Staff briefed the group on the draft Long Range Transportation Plan, Measure R Local Return, Measure R Highway Program and State and Federal funding and budgets. The next meeting is scheduled for January 2010.  **Media Release on 13TH Annual Golden Pylon Awards for Traffic Reports**  Media Relations issued a news release today noting that southland transit agencies handed out coveted Golden Pylon Awards to the region’s top traffic reporters at an awards luncheon honoring the true grit reporters whose on-air traffic talk keeps the region’s traffic moving by promoting rideshare options such as carpool lanes, vanpools and public transportation.  The release noted that illuminating a stellar effort in unraveling the region’s huge traffic knot, gleaming Lucite trophies inscribed with a traffic cone pylon went to five reporters who report on the daily traffic grind for numerous broadcast outlets. And the winners are:   * **Vera Jimenez**, Southern California's most-watched early morning TV traffic reporter, joined the CBS 2 News team in 2002. * **Arianna Ortiz** on: KRTH, KFWB * **Mark Wheeler** on KLOS * **Tori Scott** on KSBR, KTMQ, KYMT, KSGN * **Tiffany Brazil-Galea’l on KLCA, KIXA, KJILL, KYMT, KSPA, KTMQ, KSLY, I Heart Radio** * **California Highway Patrol Officer Vince Ramirez,** who reports traffic conditions on FOX 11 Morning News, Univision 34 morning news, Primera Edicion of Univision 34, 6 p.m. and on radio stations KWRM Radio Mexico mornings; KFRN 1280 Family Radio, La Poderosa 1550 and on the Internet Real Time Traffic internet show on Myfoxla.com for Fox network.   The Awards ceremony is sponsored by five regional transit agencies: Metro in Los Angeles County, Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino Associated Governments and Ventura County Transportation Commission. The Los Angeles Times and KCBS News attended the event and stories may run tonight and tomorrow.  Link to News Release: <http://www.metro.net/news_info/press/Metro_155.htm>  **Mayor Holds News Conference on Clean Tech Job Creation**  Mayor Villaraigosa held a news conference this morning at the Union Station Gold Line to announce the job and economic benefits expected as a result of the planned construction of the AnsaldoBreda factory here in Los Angeles following last week’s decision by the Board. The Mayor was joined by Board Chair Najarian, Directors Katz, Fasana, Huizar, City Councilman Tom LaBonge, Maria Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary of the LA County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO, Jack Kyser, Chief Economist, representatives from AnsaldoBreda and me.  Media attending today’s event included the LA Times, La Opinion, Downtown News, City News Service, Building Trade News, KABC-TV, KMEX-TV, KBS –TV (Korean), KNX/KFWB radio, KPCC radio and Metro Networks. Stories are expected to run tonight and tomorrow. |
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