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| **Thursday, August 2, 2012 120802-1**  **In this Issue:**  **“Carmageddon II” Joint Agency News Conference**  **Reporter with the La Canada Sun Newspaper Inquiry on the SR-710 Stakeholder Outreach Advisory Committee** |
| **“Carmageddon II” Joint Agency News Conference**  This morning, I joined Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky and Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Member Antonio Villaraigosa for a joint agency news conference to detail city, county and state preparations for “Carmageddon II,” the second I-405 freeway closure in the Sepulveda Pass now scheduled for the weekend of September 29-30, 2012. Metro, Caltrans, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles World Airports, California Highway Patrol, Auto Club of Southern California, and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce spoke with a common mission in asking for the public’s cooperation again to “Plan Ahead, Avoid the Area, or Eat, Shop and Play Locally” to avoid major congestion impacts during the 53-hour closure period. Numerous media attended the press conference, including all major network television stations, Spanish and Asian media, radio, print and blogs. Stories are expected to run beginning today.  **Reporter with the La Canada Sun Newspaper Inquiry on the SR-710 Stakeholder Outreach Advisory Committee**  Yesterday, a reporter with the La Canada Sun Newspaper inquired about the SR-710 Stakeholder Outreach Advisory Committees. Staff told the reporter the outreach committees were assembled through a Metro Board Motion in 2010. The purpose was to insure stakeholders would be given updates of the environmental process and opportunities to provide input on the Alternative Analyst concepts. The reporter asked Metro to respond to the perception some stakeholders have formed by saying the outreach committees are simply window dressing. Staff responded by stating that Metro takes all comments made by stakeholders seriously. Full engagement from cities and their residents is important and necessary. The story is expected to run today. | |
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