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| **Thursday, August 30, 2012 120830-1**  **In this Issue:**  **Media Covers Press Event Promoting Metro for USC Football**  **Regional Connector Community Meetings** |
| **Media Covers Press Event Promoting Metro for USC Football**  Today, our agency held a press event at USC to celebrate enhanced service for USC Football home games. I joined the following speakers at today’s event: Los Angeles City Councilmember Jan Perry, USC Senior Associate Athletic Director Steve Lopes, Captain Holly Perez from Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department and our Chief Operations Officer Frank Alejandro. We all emphasized taking Metro to the Coliseum to avoid traffic jams and the hassle of parking and also stressed the importance of rail safety on game day. The Metro Expo Line will run every 6 minutes before and after the game and extra service also will be added to the Metro Silver Line. Trains on the Gold, Red and Purple lines will run with additional cars. Metro event guides dressed in USC colors will be stationed along the Expo Line and at key stations along the other rail lines to assist passengers with buying tickets and transfers. Members from USC's Spirit of Troy band and the USC Song Girls performed at the event. Media covering included Univision, City News Service, La Opinion, Sing Tao Daily, Downtown News and channels 4/52, 7 and LA18.8. Stories are expected to run later this afternoon and through tomorrow.  **Regional Connector Community Meetings**    Last night, the Regional Connector project team concluded a series of 4 community meetings to update the public on the status of the Regional Connector and inform stakeholders on station design efforts. The presentations held last week at the Los Angeles Times and Central Library and this week at the Colburn School and Japanese American National Museum included review of updated concepts for stations located at 2nd/Hope, 2nd/Broadway, and 1st/Central in Downtown Los Angeles. In addition to station design, the meeting presentation introduced the “kit of parts” concept which was generally well received by the 184 attendees. Response from the community included questions about station artwork and joint development opportunities above station plazas. There were also questions about the initiation of utility relocation activities, station box construction, and the anticipated arrival date of the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM).  Media coverage of the meetings included RafuShimpo, Downtown News, LA Streetsblog, Curbed LA, and Metro’s Blog, *The Source*. The August 29, 2012 meeting was broadcast over the internet and can be viewed [here](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/community-update-meetings). The engineering phase of the project continues, with the intention to enter into final design this winter. The Regional Connector anticipates securing a Full Funding Grant Agreement from the FTA in 2013.  <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/community-update-meetings> | |
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