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| **Friday, November 2, 2012 121102-1**  **In this Issue:**  **Alameda Corridor East Groundbreaking Ceremony**  **Countdown to Metro ExpressLanes:** **Tip #5 –Take Advantage of Discounts and Rewards!**  **Metro ExpressLanes Live Web Chat**  **Expo Light Rail Line Construction Notice**  **Procurement Postings for Next Week**  **Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events** |
| **Alameda Corridor East Groundbreaking Ceremony**  Yesterday, over 150 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Alameda Corridor East (ACE) San Gabriel Trench project. The project is the centerpiece of the ACE program and will construct a 1.4 mile trench along the Union Pacific right-of-way in the City of San Gabriel, eliminating four at-grade crossings in the process. This line is one of the key rail links connecting the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the rest of the country. At a total cost of $336.5 million, the project was funded through a variety of federal, state, and local funds including $42 million in Measure R funds. The general contractor for the project is the Walsh Construction Company who will in turn subcontract several tasks to local firms. Construction of the trench will enhance the movement of freight by rail, eliminate grade crossing delay, improve air quality, and create over 8,900 jobs. Speakers at the event included Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congressman Ed Royce, State Senator Carol Liu, State Senator Ed Hernandez, Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal, Assemblyman Mike Eng, Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, Assemblywoman Norma Torres, Metro Board Chair Michael Antonovich, Metro Board Director John Fasana, California Transportation Commissioner Fran Inman, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Associate Division Administrator Rick Backlund, and Caltrans Acting District Director Terry Abbott.  **Countdown to Metro ExpressLanes:** **Tip #5 –Take Advantage of Discounts and Rewards!**  There are only eight days left in the countdown before we introduce Metro ExpressLanes to the public. Below are some important money-saving tips to consider when traveling along the 110 and 10 freeways. FasTrak offers a number of discounts and rewards.  AAA members receive a 20% discount at any AAA branch location in Southern California or when signing up online at AAA.com/metroexpresslanes for FasTrak. Metro staff will also note a special insert in today’s [paystub](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/121102_Metro_Paystub_Insert.pdf), explaining more about how to save and receive your FasTrak today! With the first-ever ExpressLanes Equity Plan, customers can open a FasTrak account at a reduced rate. Prior to starting your trip, set your *switchable* FasTrak to the number of passengers in your vehicle to save when carpooling. Carpools, vanpools, and motorcycles also earn rewards through the Loyalty Program. Please click [here](http://youtu.be/fz9BJACR7yE) to learn more and view the video.  Four one-way trips per month, any combination of carpool/vanpool, driving solo, on a motorcycle or eligible transit, waive the $3 monthly account fee. And frequent transit riders earn toll credits with TAP. Employees can also use their identification badge to link their TAP card to their FasTrak account and earn rewards. These discounts and rewards not only save you money but are designed to save you time. For more information on the latest discounts, please click [here](http://www.metroexpresslanes.net/).  *About Metro ExpressLanes*  *Metro ExpressLanes is an exciting new endeavor. But like all new undertakings, it will take some time to become familiar with how it works, and it will take time before we experience the full benefits and rewards of this new traffic flow improvement project. We expect to see traffic flow enhancements and congestion reduction as the project progresses over time along with some immediate advantages such as new and more frequent transit service. Participant-adoption, and on-going feedback as a vital partner in this program will ensure its success as well as an improved travel experience for all drivers between the 110 and 10 freeways to downtown Los Angeles.*  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/121102_Metro_Paystub_Insert.pdf>  <http://youtu.be/fz9BJACR7yE>  [www.metroexpresslanes.net](http://www.metroexpresslanes.net)  **Metro ExpressLanes Live Web Chat**  Media Relations coordinated an hour long Metro Live Web Chat at noon today with Stephanie Wiggins, Executive Officer for Metro’s Congestion Reduction Demonstration Initiative to discuss the Metro ExpressLanes program. The public was invited to submit questions before and during the live web chat concerning the ExpressLanes program. There were over 100 questions received regarding how the program works, who is charged a toll and where/how to get FasTrak transponders. It was noted that the ExpressLanes along the 110 Harbor Freeway are set to open up to motorists on Saturday, November 10, 2012. Several news reporters also participated in the live chat sending questions about the ExpressLanes program. Those included reporters from the Los Angeles Business Journal, KTLA and the San Gabriel Valley Tribune.  [**http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf\_uploads/cons\_ym19t6i9x.pdf**](http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_ym19t6i9x.pdf)  **Expo Light Rail Line Construction Notice**  Relocation of On-Street and Underground Utilities  As part of the construction of Phase 2 of the Expo Light Rail Line, work crews will be relocating various existing on-street and underground utilities located along the Expo Right-of-Way on National Boulevard and Clarington in the City of Los Angeles. The work is being managed and performed by the Expo Phase 2 design-build contractor Skanska-Rados Joint Venture (SRJV), and its subcontractors. Construction work will take place on Monday, November 5, 2012 through Friday, December 7, 2012. Work hours are scheduled from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Hours are contingent upon city approval. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_ym19t6i9x.pdf).  **Procurement Postings for Next Week**  Rail Isolation Boot and Flange Filler (IFB) Procurement will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) next week for the solicitation of 12,000 feet of Rail Isolation Boot and 12,000 feet of Flange Filler. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from October 31, 2012 through November 20, 2012. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Ruth DeWitt, Contract Administrator at (213) 922-1076.  A650 Gearbox Overhaul (IFB)  Procurement will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) next week to procure services for gearbox overhaul for the Metro Red Line cars. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from November 6, 2012 through March 12, 2013. Overhaul of the gearboxes is required to support the maintenance and repair/overhaul program on Metro’s Red Line cars. These services are essential to ensure that the gearbox’s performance is in accordance with the manufacturer’s performance criteria. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Otto Ojong, Sr. Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-1454.  Highway Programs – Los Angeles County Intelligent Transportation Systems On Call Services (RFP)  Procurement will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) next week to procure services for Highway Programs – Los Angeles County Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) On Call Services. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from November 08, 2012 through January 28, 2013. Metro is seeking professional services to conduct a major effort to advance the development and implementation of ITS programs and projects in the Los Angeles County region. The ITS on call services awardee will assist in the delivery and evaluation of Highway Program ITS initiatives. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Gary Katzman, Senior Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-4607.  **Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events**  Next week, I will be meeting with Lucy Dunn, President and CEO of the Orange County Business Council and Fran Inman, California Transportation Commissioner. I will also be meeting with Robert Manning, President of Southwest Rail Passenger Association and Paul Dyson, President of Rail Passenger Association of Nevada. I will also be attending a Metro ExpressLanes Business Roundtable meeting and a Brazilian Delegation meeting with Mayor and Metro Board Director Antonio Villaraigosa. Also, I will be speaking at the Los Angeles Current Affairs Forum Luncheon. In addition, I will also be attending the WTS-L.A. 26th Annual Scholarship & Awards Dinner event. Finally, I will attend the opening of the Metro ExpressLanes event. | |
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