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| **Thursday, October 18, 2012121018-1****In this Issue:****Media Covers Great California ShakeOut at Union Station****FHWA INVEST Version 1.0** |
| **Media Covers Great California ShakeOut at Union Station**This morning, Union Station hosted the Great California Shakeout, a state-wide earthquake preparedness event. Media coverage began at 4:00 a.m. on the west side of Union Station, where the earthquake simulator was stationed. Metro Board Member and Metrolink Board Chair Richard Katz spoke to morning news reporters and highlighted transit safety during earthquakes. He noted that subway stations and tunnels are actually the safest place to be during an earthquake. Both Metro and Metrolink trains travel at restricted speeds in the event of an earthquake so they are able to quickly and safely stop if they encounter track damage or obstructions. Operators are trained to report track conditions to Rail Operations and make announcements to passengers to keep them informed. Passengers are advised to stay onboard buses and trains or in train stations until instructed to do otherwise by Metro personnel. Metro Media Relations staff were also on hand to reinforce this message to the media. Director Katz then joined Mayor and Metro Board Member Antonio Villaraigosa for a press conference held in the Union Station East Portal to stress the importance of earthquake preparedness. Also speaking at the event were Paul Schluz of the American Red Cross and Dr. Lucy Jones of U.S. Geological Survey. The speakers demonstrated the "drop, cover and hold on" drill at 10:18 a.m. At 11:00 a.m., Metro staff demonstrated a train evacuation drill for the media at the Union Station Gold Line platform. Numerous media outlets covered the press conference and emergency drills, including channels 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 22, 34, 35, 54, 62, BBC News, Voice of America, Metro Networks, TVK, NHK, Annenberg TV, LA18, MBC, BereaVision, Reuters, ETTV, CCTV America, La Opinion, Los Angeles Times, China Press, San Gabriel Valley Tribune, SOI Miami, Kyodo News, SingHua News, Pasadena Star News and KFI Radio. Stories are expected to run today and tomorrow.**FHWA INVEST Version 1.0**The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently launched a free, web-based self-assessment tool called the Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool (INVEST 1.0). The newly unveiled INVEST 1.0 allows transportation agencies to consider the sustainability of highway programs and projects through every phase of the transportation infrastructure lifecycle, including system planning, project management, and maintenance and operations. The INVEST tool allows users to self-evaluate programs or projects using specific criteria, such as energy efficiency and use of recycled materials, to obtain a snapshot of the sustainability of the program or project in time. Thus, INVEST 1.0 provides transportation agencies with more holistic opportunities for planning, building, operating, and maintaining sustainable highway systems. For more information on the tool, please visit: <https://www.sustainablehighways.org/>. |
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