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In this Issue:

Board Chairman Antonovich and Director Villaraigosa Author Letters to APTA on PTC

Media Inquiry on Universal City Bridge Project

Board Chairman Antonovich and Director Villaraigosa Author Letters to APTA on PTC

On April 2, 2013 Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Chairman Michael Antonovich sent correspondence to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), "...to ensure that any alternative Positive Train Control (PTC) technology that is considered be interoperable with PTC and meet the same safety benefits offered by this critical safety measure." Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Director Antonio Villaraigosa has also sent a letter to APTA expressing concerns about APTA's position with respect to the implementation of PTC. Last month, our agency submitted a letter, co-signed by the Chief Executive Officers of the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink), encouraging APTA to refrain from supporting any effort to weaken provisions regarding PTC that were outlined in the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA).

Last month APTA held its annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. At this Legislative Conference members of the Commuter Rail CEO's subcommittee considered and approved a proposal to permit the use of alternative technologies to achieve the safety goals sought by the RSIA through the implementation of a PTC system (with a stated deadline of 2015). We are concerned that APTA's position may serve to diminish the strong safety provisions included in the RSIA that was signed into law by President George W. Bush shortly after the tragic Chatsworth train collision on September 12, 2008.

PTC is a GPS-based safety technology capable of preventing train-to-train collisions, over-speed derailments and also capable of bringing trains to a safe stop in the event of a natural disaster. PTC holds the promise of dramatically improving rail safety and for this reason has, for many years, been listed on the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) "Most Wanted" list. Please click [here](#) for a link to the NTSB's description of PTC on its "Most Wanted" list.

For your review, we have attached [copies](#) of the PTC letters sent urging APTA to respect the long held tradition of consensus-based decision making and not move forward with plans to adopt language with regards to Positive Train Control (PTC) technology that our agency views as inconsistent with the spirit and letter of the RSIA. We are currently engaged in a dialogue with APTA, federal legislators and the U.S. Department of Transportation to advance our Board-approved policy of aggressively supporting Metrolink's effort to fully implement a PTC system by 2015. We look forward to keeping the Board apprised of our efforts on this important rail safety issue.

Media Inquiry on Universal City Bridge Project

Today, a reporter from La Opinion interviewed K.N. Murthy, Metro Executive Director

Transit Projects, regarding an update on the Universal City Bridge Project. Staff explained that our agency expects the bids to come in by May 2013, then the process to evaluate the bids will take place. If the proposals received meet the terms, conditions and requirements to complete the job, Metro will probably award a design/built contract by fall 2013, with construction expected to begin early 2014. A story is expected to run tomorrow.

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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012-2952
Phone: 213-922-6888 Fax: 213-922-7447