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America Fast Forward To Be Featured In New Book: The Metropolitan Revolution

Later this month, Brookings Institution Press is expected to publish a book entitled, "The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy." The book will feature a section on our Board-approved America Fast Forward initiative. The publication, authored by Bruce Katz and Jennifer Bradley, makes the case that as gridlock has struck Congress and Washington, DC in general - metropolitan areas are "taking control of their own economic destinies and making transformative investments in the infrastructure, human capital and innovation that drive prosperity." Among the case examples cited by the authors, is the effort in Los Angeles County to accelerate our transit and highway programs funded through Measure R. The America Fast Forward initiative was created as a nationwide initiative in response to the 30/10 initiative that was advanced by Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Director Antonio Villaraigosa. Bruce Katz is vice president and founding director of the Metropolitan Policy program at the Brookings Institution and Jennifer Bradley is a fellow in the Metropolitan Policy program at Brookings Institution.

Media Visit Central Maintenance Facility for Earth Day

This morning, media were invited to visit the Central Maintenance Facility in downtown to shoot footage of Metro's Compressed Natural Gas bus engine dynamometer and view other energy saving measures. Our agency has the largest alternative fuel bus fleet in the nation. More than 92% of air toxic pollutants have been reduced with the use of CNG compared to our use of diesel buses in the last decade. Cris Liban, Deputy Executive Officer of Environmental Compliance/Services, and John Drayton, Vehicle Acquisition Manager, were on hand to provide quotes for the media covering. They pointed out the ways Metro is going green and pointed out how riding public transit can reduce a person's carbon footprint by 20lbs of air pollutants a day. In addition, Earth Day would be a great day to get out of cars and go Metro. Media covering included channels 4, 7, 52 and Downtown News. Stories are expected to run later today.

Pico Rivera And Inglewood Featured in Poster Series

Posters celebrating Pico Rivera and Inglewood are now displayed in buses and trains throughout the Metro system. The posters, featuring original artwork by Ramon Ramirez and Wakana Kimura, are part of Metro's *Through the Eyes of Artists* series, which commissions local artists to create original artworks that express the uniqueness of Los Angeles County neighborhoods and encourage people to take Metro to explore new destinations. Please click [here](#) to see photos of the posters and click [here](#) to read interviews with the artists.

Metro Safe Routes To School Pilot Program

Metro staff partnered with the Los Angeles County Department of Health to successfully apply for a grant from the federal government to develop a program to encourage students to walk, bike and ride public transit. Ten schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) have been selected for participation based on high rates of pedestrian and bicyclist collisions near school campuses, and a student population that may have higher risks for chronic diseases due to obesity. The goal is to collaborate with school staff, parents and students to encourage safe, healthy physical activity and the use of alternative means of travel. Metro staff will hold two community workshops scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2013 and Saturday, May 18, 2013 to discuss the program. Please click [here](#) to view the Metro Safe Routes To School Pilot Program flyer.

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