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**Countdown to I-10 Metro ExpressLanes: Tip #6 – Congestion Pricing Takes Time – Day 1 Will Not Be The Same As Day 100**

With only two days left before we launch Metro ExpressLanes on the 10 between Alameda Street and the 605, FasTrak-user adoption continues to increase with time. More than 99,300 transponders have been issued as of yesterday and ExpressLanes is expected to reach a 100,000 FasTrak accounts milestone by tomorrow. Moreover, traffic volumes along the 110 averaged more than 47,000 trips last week (or 96% of pre-deployment volumes) and are expected to exceed pre-deployment volumes in the next few weeks. As we have learned from the 110 opening just three months ago, volume increases over time. This is primarily due to commuter's adjusting to a new device, technology, and process. We expect to observe similar growth patterns and ramp up periods with the upcoming opening of the 10 ExpressLanes. Our experience from the opening of the 110 indicates that usage of the 10 ExpressLanes during the first week of operation is expected to be lower than the usage had been prior to conversion of the lanes to ExpressLanes. This is primarily due to enforcement of the lanes (which pushes out violators) and the likelihood that most commuters will not yet have their transponders. However, within the first 100 days of operation, we expect the usage to ramp up as commuters gain a greater understanding of how the ExpressLanes operate, and sign up for a FasTrak account and receive a transponder.

*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.*

### **Executive Officer Stephanie Wiggins Discusses Saturday's Opening of the 10 ExpressLanes on Fox 11 Today**

Stephanie Wiggins, Executive Officer for the Metro Congestion Reduction Demonstration Initiative, gave an interview today with Fox 11 about the opening of 14 miles of ExpressLanes along the I-10 Freeway at 12:01 a.m. this Saturday, February 23, 2013. In the interview the public was reminded that all motorists using the new ExpressLanes will need to open a FasTrak account. She stressed that the ExpressLanes project is part of Metro's effort to offer choices that will contribute to greater mobility for the Los Angeles region. The interview is expected to run at 5:00 p.m. today on KTTV Fox 11.

### **California Legislative Analyst's Office Releases Report on Transportation Proposals for the 2013-2014 Budget**

Earlier today, the California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released a report on Transportation funding proposals for the 2013-2014 Budget. The analysis highlights the Governor's plans for Transportation Spending, including Caltrans, CTC and High Speed Rail. For the High Speed Rail Authority, the Governor's budget estimates expenditures of \$2.4 billion in 2012-13 and \$3.2 billion in 2013-14 to begin construction of the initial segments of the project. The LAO also makes recommendations to the HSRA for additional staffing and oversight for the project. The LAO report can be accessed [here](#).

### **California Transportation Commission Executive Director Announces Retirement**

This week, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) issued a statement that Bimla Rhinehart, CTC Executive Director, will be retiring, after 27 years of service. Metro staff have worked closely with Ms. Rhinehart to advance the funding and support of our agency's projects and programs through the CTC. Most recently, Ms. Rhinehart was very helpful in helping to foster a partnership between Caltrans, the CTC and Metro to ensure the Interstate 5 project stayed on schedule and in resolving the issues surrounding the funding for the Interstate 5 project. We have always enjoyed a very strong and cooperative working relationship with Ms. Rhinehart and her leadership will be missed. Andre Boutros has been selected as interim Executive Director.

### **Restricted Access to East Portal, Plaza of Union Station This Saturday**

Construction to replace air-conditioning cooling towers on the high-rise rooftop of the U.S Gateway Plaza building will restrict access to the Patsaouras Transit Plaza and parking structure at the East Portal entrance to Union Station from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on this Saturday, February 23, 2013. Cesar Chavez Avenue and Vignes Street adjacent to the Metro Headquarters building will be closed to through traffic during that time. Pedestrians, buses and other vehicles will not be allowed in or out of Patsaouras Plaza and the parking structure or the surrounding streets. All Metro and Metrolink rail service will run normal operations and schedule. The public will be directed to use the Alameda Street entrance of Union Station to access the Metro Red, Purple, and Gold Lines and Metrolink and Amtrak trains during the hours of construction. For more details regarding the construction and service relocations, please view the story as posted on the Source [here](#).

<http://thesource.metro.net/2013/02/21/rooftop-maintenance-at-metro-hq-to-close-east-portal-plaza-parking-at-union-station-during-daytime-hours-on-saturday-buses-lax-flyaway-and-megabus-temporarily-relocated->

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