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| **Monday, July 8, 2013 130708-1**  **In this Issue:**  **2013 Summer High School Internship Program**  **Metro’s ADA Ridership Increasing** |

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| **2013 Summer High School Internship Program**  Today, we began our 2013 Summer High School Internship Program. This  program initiative works to set participants on a path towards a successful transition into  the Transportation workforce, enforcement of continuing education and skills  training. Emphasis is placed on serving youth who reside in the transit dependent areas of Los Angeles. The high schools we are working with this year include: Duke Ellington High School, Whitney Young High School, DOTS - LAUSD Division of Special Ed, Franklin High School and Wilshire Metro Worksource Center. There will be 35 high school interns participating in this year’s Summer High School Internship Program and the program will take place from July 8, 2013 through August 2, 2013. Please welcome these students to our agency and assist with offering them a meaningful work experience at Metro.  **ADA Ridership Increasing**  Metro currently boards the most persons in wheelchairs in the nation with about 80,000 per month, which is a significant increase from the 3,500 wheelchair boardings per month in 2003. Various improvements to Metro rail and buses may account for some of the increased patronage, and may help to further increase ridership of persons with disabilities. Some improvements include priority seats that will now be identified as “reserved” for seniors, and persons with disabilities; soon buses will be equipped with blue floor decals to identify the areas reserved for persons in wheelchairs and the new CNG New Flyer buses will include a designated area for those who use walkers. Presently, we are also working with suppliers to increase wheelchair positions on articulated buses. Additional options of securement and positioning for wheelchair patrons will be offered. New buses will come with two Q’PODs, a three-point securement system which makes securing wheelchairs easier and faster. Each wheelchair location will also be equipped to handle persons who wish to ride without securement belts, in a rear facing position. Rail will have new areas reserved for wheelchairs, and they will be marked by blue floor decals and an International Symbol of Access (ISA) graphic. These spaces will be separate from the areas allotted for bicycles, luggage and strollers. New light rail cars will have space for four wheelchairs in each articulated car instead of two in the existing fleet. For more information, please see the full story as posted on the Source by clicking [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2013/07/08/metros-ada-ridership-growing-rapidly/).  <http://thesource.metro.net/2013/07/08/metros-ada-ridership-growing-rapidly/> | |
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