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CEO All-Hands Staff Meeting Recap

Today, I participated in the quarterly CEO All-Hands Staff Meeting. Some items that I discussed included: the FY14 Budget, increase in ridership, fare restructuring, the Los Angeles mayoral election and its implications, I-10 ExpressLanes opening, successful gate latching testing, Division 13, Union Station Master Plan, safety enhancements, among other topics. In addition, I encouraged staff to continue to collectively work together towards providing a world-class integrated transportation system to Los Angeles. Lastly, I would like to personally thank those who attended in person, listened in from remote locations, or watched the meeting streamlined at the divisions. Also, a special thanks to all of the staff (ITS/Administration/Media) who worked to coordinate this meeting. Please click [here](#) to view photos from today's meeting.

http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/132703_CEO_All_Hands_Meeting.pdf

2013 Health Fair Kick Off

Today, a kick-off of the 2013 Health Fair took place at the Central Maintenance Facility (CMF). After the CEO's All Hands Staff Meeting, I joined staff as they took part in screenings for blood pressure, glucose, BMI and participated in discussions aimed at having a healthier lifestyle. In addition, some of the vendors who attended were: Kaiser Permanente, Anthem Blue Cross, Delta Dental and the American Heart Association, among others. Please click [here](#) to view a picture of today's event.

http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/130327_Health_Fair_Picture.pdf

Metro Monthly Green Tips

Green tips are applicable both at work and at home, this month's green tips focuses on what green choices you can make to save money at home and at the office. Going green all at once is too much for almost anyone to accomplish. Instead, try adding a few more ideas in the upcoming months, or pick one from a last year's green tips. You'll be surprised at how many changes you can make in the coming months.

1. Turn Down your Water Heater:

Chances are you can turn down the thermostat on your water heater a few degrees but still have enough hot water for the regular uses such as daily showers, dishes and laundry. Most home water heaters are set to 140 degrees and if you lower it to 120 degrees your water heating costs will go down 6-10%!

2. Give up Idling your Car:

Every moment you spend idling your car's engine means time spent needlessly wasting gas, as well as rougher wear on your vehicle. One of the ways hybrid vehicles are able to achieve such impressive fuel economy is by having a computer cut out idling automatically: when you aren't making headway, the gas engine shuts off. For regular cars, it doesn't make sense to shut off the engine at every stop sign; but you should certainly stop the car while waiting for someone or while making a quick stop. Overall, idling Americans burn 2.9 billion gallons of gas a year, worth around \$78.2 billion, according to a report from Texas A&M.

3. Wash your Car at a Professional Car Wash:

Commercial car washes require an average of about 45 gallons of water per car, whereas home washers typically use between 80 and 140 gallons, according to the trade group International Carwash Association. Federal law requires commercial car washes to drain their wastewater into sewers, where it normally receives some treatment, versus simply running across the land as it would at your house. Plus many car washers use recycled water, which saves even more, so leave it to the pros!

By implementing this month's green tips into your office, home and everyday life you'll help in building a more sustainable future!

Daily News reporter inquires about the I-5 North Capacity HOT Lane Project

A reporter with the Daily News today inquired about the I-5 North Capacity High Occupant Toll (HOT) lane Project. The project is funded by Measure R but Metro's Long Range Transportation Project (LRTP) has a shortfall of funds and will push the project out to 2040. The reporter was told instead of waiting 30 years to finance and build 13.5 miles of carpool lanes in each direction through Santa Clarita, Metro is looking to having it built by 2019. Metro is currently exploring the feasibility of tolling the proposed new carpool lane to fund the shortfall. Metro and Caltrans are working in partnership to conduct technical studies to analyze the effects associated with this concept. Staff explained the need exists now. Santa Clarita is the third largest city in Los Angeles County. This stretch of the I-5 carries over 200,000 cars a day. The traffic is expected to become much worse in the next 30 years. By building the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes now, construction costs will be significantly lower because of anticipated future inflation. In addition, current construction costs are lower due to the state of the economy and a slow-down in construction work. The project will create approximately 4,000 jobs to the region. Staff explained the Metro board will be looking at a proposed tolling concept sometime in early spring. A public hearing hosted by Caltrans for the I-5 HOT Lane Project Draft supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being held tomorrow evening at 6 :30 p.m. at the Santa Clarita City Hall, 23920 Valencia Boulevard. To view the document, go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/resources/envdocs>. The Daily News story is expected to run tomorrow.

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