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| **Thursday, October 17, 2013 131017-1**  **In this Issue:**  **U.S. Senate Confirms Transportation Posts at USDOT and NTSB**  **Next Generation Bus on Display Today at Union Station**  **Metro Prominently Featured in New Book on Social Media in Transportation**  **I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project Media Inquiry** |
| **U.S. Senate Confirms Transportation Posts at USDOT and NTSB**  Yesterday, the U.S. Senate voted to confirm the nomination of Sylvia Garcia to serve as the Chief Financial Officer of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). The Senate also confirmed the nomination of Deborah Hersman to serve as Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) for a term of two years.  **Next Generation Bus on Display Today at Union Station**  Today, CBS News followed Metro Board Director and Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti at Metro headquarters as he inspected a new bus on order. General Manager of Transit Capital Programs Richard Hunt and Andrew Janicki of the Metro Civil Rights Division briefed the Director on the new fleet’s features. Among other improvements, the New Flyer bus is 10 percent lighter, meaning greater fuel economy and less maintenance costs as parts such as tires and brakes will need replacing less often. In addition, the New Flyer has a more efficient air conditioning system, larger windows and video monitoring system that can be downloaded wireless to law enforcement, if necessary. Each bus also has two Q-pods where wheel chairs can be secured in either forward or rear-facing positions. There are newly designated seats for seniors or others with mobility impairments, including a place to stow a walker. KFI radio also conducted interviews with stories expected to run today. The CBS story is in production. For the complete story posted on the Source, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2013/10/17/next-generation-bus-on-display-this-morning-at-union-station/).  [**http://thesource.metro.net/2013/10/17/next-generation-bus-on-display-this-morning-at-union-station/**](http://thesource.metro.net/2013/10/17/next-generation-bus-on-display-this-morning-at-union-station/)  **<http://thesource.metro.net/2013/10/17/next-generation-bus-on-display-this-morning-at-union-station/>**  **Metro Prominently Featured in New Book on Social Media in Transportation**  Metro's pioneering efforts in social media, some of them dating as far back as 2005 with aggregating Los Angeles focused transportation news via blogging, are prominently featured in a newly published book, *Transportation Agency Use of Social Media*. The book provides examples of different ways transportation agencies have deployed and are using social media, and the lessons learned from their experiences. Several Metro employees contributed chapters, or portions of chapters to the book. Ned Racine, Community Relations Representative, wrote about the use of social media for the I-405 HOV project focusing on Carmageddon. Jody Litvak, Community Relations Director, wrote about the Purple Line Extension's use of social media during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Robin O'Hara and former Chief Communications Officer Matt Raymond, wrote about our highly successful 2008 "Imagine" campaign. Additionally, Steve Hymon, editor of our passenger focused blog, The Source, was interviewed for inclusion in the book. A copy will be available in our Transportation Research Library. More information is available from the [publisher](http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781466568600) or on [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1466568607/ref=cm_sw_su_dp).    [**http://www.amazon.com/dp/1466568607/ref=cm\_sw\_su\_dp**](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1466568607/ref=cm_sw_su_dp)  **I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project Media Inquiry**  The Daily News has inquired about retaining wall issues and their impact on the overall delivery schedule for the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project. Metro’s Executive Director for Transit Project Delivery, K.N. Murthy briefed the reporter. He stated that in late 2011, the contractor reported finding components of some of the project’s retaining walls that were structurally compromised due to issues with a proprietary wall system failure. The contractor worked aggressively to replace the affected walls, and is responsible for reparation costs. The impact of this retaining wall issue to the schedule is currently under review as part of project's Time Impact of Delays analysis. The project team has successfully overcome several major challenges that have extended the completion of portions of the project and added costs. However, to date the project is approximately 85% complete, with major completion milestones for the Wilshire Interchange, Sunset off-ramp and Mulholland Bridge planned in the near future. Staff reiterated the advantages of the Design-Build process in shaving several years off the construction schedule compared with the traditional Design-Bid-Build delivery method. The story is expected to run this weekend. | |
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