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| **Westside Subway Extension Record of Decision**Today, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Westside Subway Extension, officially certifying that the project has satisfied all federal guidelines for the environmental analysis. This action enables Metro to seek federal funding for final design and construction. It will also enable us to commence discussions with FTA for a Full Funding Grant Agreement for this 9 mile extension of the Metro Purple Line subway from its current terminus at Wilshire/Western to the Westwood/VA Hospital. About three-quarters of the cost will be locally funded from Measure R. The line will include seven new stations and is projected to add 78,000 new daily trips on the full Metro Rail System.  **Metro Red Line TVM Conversion Completed; Green Line Stations Next** The Metro Red Line ticket vending machines (TVMs) have completed the conversion to dispensing TAP cards that are enabled to load One-Way and Day Pass fares that were formerly vended on paper tickets. This same TVM conversion process will continue through next week on Metro Green Line, followed by Blue Line, Expo Line, Gold Line and Metro Orange Line stations. Several larger stations including Red Line Union and North Hollywood stations, the 7th Metro Blue/Red Line station, Expo Vermont station, and Green/Blue Line station at Imperial/Wilmington will be reserved to the end of the schedule, when on September 20, 2012, all of the 377 TVMs will have completed this campaign. During this process, special Event Staff have been assisting customers at TVMs as MTA personnel make mechanical changes to the machines so that those who are not familiar with the equipment or the TAP card are provided immediate assistance and information.  The Event Staff are present for four consecutive days at each station during the conversion process from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily, including weekends. Additional assistance from Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department personnel are also part of the TVM conversion team. Staff will continue to keep the Board apprised of the progress of this effort as each new line completes this campaign.  **San Gabriel Valley Region Transit Providers Meeting**Yesterday, the City of Pasadena hosted the San Gabriel Valley Transit Providers meeting, the second of five quarterly meetings we are coordinating in the regions represented by our Metro Service Councils. The San Gabriel Valley group received a report on the ExpressLanes project, an update on El Monte Station construction, and a report on the reciprocal fare agreement between Metro and Foothill Transit on the Silver Corridor (Silver Line and Silver Streak). They also discussed Chair Antonovich's recent motion concerning improved scheduling coordination, including the idea of developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), or similar agreement, to coordinate all service changes, and the best way to prioritize Metrolink stations and other transit hubs for improving schedule coordination. Each of the attendees provided an update on  their service issues and discussed potential topics for the next meeting. In addition to Metro and the City of Pasadena, meeting participants included representatives from Metrolink, Foothill Transit, Access Services, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. San Gabriel Valley Service Council Vice-Chair Harry Baldwin and Rosemead Public Works Director Chris Marcarello, attending on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Service Council Chair and Rosemead City Councilmember Steve Ly, also participated in the meeting. We regularly conduct these Transit Providers meetings for municipal and local operators, cities and other regional transit partners serving the areas represented by our five Metro Service Councils. Meetings for service providers in the San Fernando Valley, South Bay, and Westside Central regions will be conducted in the next few weeks. Long Beach Transit hosted a Gateway Cities Transit Providers meeting last week. **Caltrans Agrees to Extend I-710 Draft EIR/EIS Public Comment Period to September 28, 2012**The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) just announced a 30-day extension of the I-710 Corridor Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/EIS) public review period. The Draft EIR/EIS was released on June 29, 2012 initially for a 60-day public comment period but this week, Caltrans agreed to extend the review period to 90 days. The public comment period will now closeon **September 28, 2012.**   To view the official notice announcing extension of the comment period, please click [here](Caltrans%20Agrees%20to%20Extend%20I-710%20Draft%20EIR/EIS%20Public%20Comment%20Period%20to%20September%2028th).  Additionally, three Public hearings are being held this week to update the public on the Draft EIR/EIS and the potential effects this project may have on the environment. Members of the public are encouraged to attend these hearings to learn about the project and submit formal comments to Caltrans. Public Hearing Dates and Locations:   * Tuesday, August 7, 2012 (6:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.) - Progress Park, 15500 Downey Ave., Paramount, Calif.
* Wednesday, August 8, 2012, (6:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.) - Silverado Park Community Center, 1545 W. 31st Street, Long Beach, Calif.
* **Thursday, August 9, 2012 (4:00 p.m. - 8 p.m.)  - Rosewood Park, 5600 Harbor Street, Commerce, Calif.**

 Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS are available for review at public libraries throughout the I-710 corridor. The Draft EIR/EIS may also be viewed [online](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/resources/envdocs/docs/710corridor/).**Metrolink "Horse" Trains for Breeders' Cup World Championships**Starting this week, a new train car decorated with a vinyl display of six thoroughbred horses will be traveling across the Metrolink system. The newly-wrapped car is a result of a partnership between Metrolink and Breeders’ Cup Ltd. to promote the return of the [Breeders’ Cup World Championships](http://www.breederscup.com/) to [Santa Anita Park](http://www.santaanita.com/) and encourage the use of public transportation to go to the event on November 2-3, 2012. The Breeders’ Cup wrapped passenger car will appear on trains on the San Bernardino, Burbank-Bob Hope Airport and Orange County lines. For details on Metrolink schedules and connections to other transit systems the weekend of the Breeders’ Cup World Championships, visit Metrolink’s [website](http://www.metrolinktrains.com/news/promotions_detail/title/Breeders_Cup) after October 10, 2012. Metrolink connects with Metro Rail at Union Station, and many Metrolink stations are also served by Metro buses.**Metro Red Line Station Canopy Project Construction Notice**Create Safe Work Zone, Subsurface and Demolition SurveyMetro’s Contractor will begin constructing a canopy at the station entrance located on Hill Street and 5th Street. Activities include demolition of the plaza slab for construction of foundations, columns, superstructure, utility relocation, pavement reconstruction and landscape restoration. The contractor will begin by installing barricades to create a safe work zone and will conduct an electronic subsurface survey to locate and mark the position and estimate depth of all existing underground utilities. Demolition will follow. Construction work at the Metro Red Line Pershing Square southeast station entrance located on Hill Street is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 for approximately one month. The construction work hours are Sunday through Thursday between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., possible intermittent day construction activities between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/120809_Pershing_Square_Construction_Notice.pdf). <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/120809_Pershing_Square_Construction_Notice.pdf> |
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