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| **Thursday, August 23, 2012 120823-1**  **In this Issue:**   * **Ribbon Cutting for the Del Amo Boulevard Extension Project** * **Joint Westside/Central and South Bay Service Providers Meeting** * **I-405 Closure Countdown Clock, Banners Now Available** * **I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project** |
| **Ribbon Cutting for the Del Amo Boulevard Extension Project**  On Wednesday, August 23, 2012, Countywide Planning staff participated in the Del Amo Boulevard Extension Project’s grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by City of Torrance. Through our Call for Projects, Metro contributed $20.1 million in Proposition C and federal dollars to this $32.2 million project that constructed a bridge to connect the two segments of Del Amo Boulevard as well as widened a half-mile segment of the Boulevard between Maple Avenue and Prairie. Congresswoman Maxine Waters, a representative from Supervisor Knabe’s office and local elected officials participated in the event.  **Joint Westside/Central and South Bay Service Providers Meeting**  Also yesterday morning, Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus hosted a joint Transit Providers meeting attended by municipal, local and city transit representatives from the South Bay and Westside/Central areas. This is the fourth, and final, of the quarterly meetings we coordinated in the five regions represented by our Metro Service Councils, and the first joint meeting we have scheduled. The group received a report on the ExpressLanes project, an update on the TAP program, and a report on the LAX Flyaway network. Michael Cano, Transportation Deputy to Metro Chair and Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich, led a discussion on Chair Antonovich's recent motion concerning improved scheduling coordination and other related topics aimed at improving the transit experience for our customers and potential new customers. Metro staff also updated the group on recent and upcoming activities, including Expo game day service to USC, expanded late night service on our rail lines and Silver Line, and station signage improvements. Each of the attendees provided an update on recent and planned service changes for their respective agencies/cities. In addition to Metro and Big Blue Bus, meeting participants included representatives from Torrance Transit, Gardena, Municipal Bus Lines, South Bay Cities Council of Governments, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), West Hollywood, UCLA, Culver City and Beach Cities Transit. We 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 on a quarterly basis. The next round of our Transit Providers meeting are tentatively scheduled to take place in December this year.  **I-405 Closure Countdown Clock, Banners Now Available**  Media Relations has issued a news release announcing the availability of online countdown clocks and banners for the second I-405 freeway closure Sept. 29-30. The “I-405: Countdown to the Closure II” clock counts down the number of days, hours, minutes and seconds before the anticipated closure of the I-405 freeway between the I-10 and U.S. 101.  The clock and banner ad will remain live on Metro’s home page at metro.net and project page at metro.net/I-405 to serve as a constant reminder for motorists to “Plan Ahead, Avoid the Area, or Eat, Shop and Play Locally” during the closure period to avoid significant congestion and delays.  A selection of “Countdown to the Closure” banner ads in various sizes and options can also be used to raise public awareness.  To obtain the Countdown clock and banner ads, visit <http://www.metro.net/projects/I-405/closure-II-link-us/> .  **I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project**  Metro Media Relations has produced a new I-405 closure Public Service Announcement featuring Los Angeles City Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa that is now available for public use.  Available in [English](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbX2bYJMjds&feature=youtu.be) and [Spanish](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zIInSioJEM&feature=youtu.be), the video PSA asks for the public’s cooperation to help avoid congestion impacts during the second 10-mile I-405 freeway closure between the I-10 and U.S. 101 the weekend of September 29-30, 2012. The video, available on YouTube, can be utilized freely by interested businesses, public agencies and community stakeholders to raise public awareness about the planned 53-hour closure of the I-405, popularly known as “Carmageddon II,” for the final demolition of the Mulholland Bridge in the Sepulveda Pass. | |
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