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| **Thursday, December 6, 2012121206-1****In this Issue:****Union Station Master Plan Update****Metro Art Presentation to Santa Monica College Artist Mentor Program****Don’t Be Naughty; Be Nice - Metro ExpressLanes Extends Grace Period****Gold Line Foothill’s Extension Bridge is Almost Complete** |
| **Union Station Master Plan Update**On the evening of December 4, 2012, over 250 community members joined us for our first major community meeting to introduce the master planning process for Union Station. Following a one hour overview presentation of the history of Union Station, the key elements of the master planning process and a Q & A session, attendees participated in an open house for one-on-one dialogue on topics of interest, including station architecture, passenger experiences, neighborhood connections, mobility and the master planning process. The two-year planning effort began in August 2012, and will include an analysis of passenger and circulation improvements, joint development opportunities on the 40-acre property, linkages to rail and bus service, and improving pedestrian connectivity between the station and nearby neighborhoods. Our next major public meeting will be in the Spring of 2013 at which we will present draft alternatives that have been developed. **Metro Art Presentation to Santa Monica College Artist Mentor Program**Metro Art staff gave a presentation to 50 students and faculty in Santa Monica College’s (SMC) Artist Mentor Program. The program exposes students to an array of opportunities in the arts. The presentation focused on Metro’s process for engaging artists and noted upcoming opportunities for artist participation at Metro. Artwork integration within the Metro Orange Line (MOL) Extension stations was used as a case study, which led to a discussion among students and presenters about art opportunities in public spaces. Anne Marie Karlsen, an artist who teaches at SMC, spoke about her artwork for the MOL Nordhoff Station and her successful experience with Metro. **Don’t Be Naughty; Be Nice - Metro ExpressLanes Extends Grace Period**The 110 ExpressLanes are an exciting new endeavor. Transponder accounts have doubled since opening on November 10, 2012 as more commuters begin to understand how the ExpressLanes work. Even with continued adoption, it is understandable that it will take some time for drivers to become familiar with the new process. As part of this transition process, I have authorized the grace period for violation notices issued without penalty to be extended through January 9, 2012.  While we have conducted extensive research and launched multiple media and communication campaigns to build awareness and effectively inform and educate our users, it will take time for Metro Expresslanes customers to properly transition in order to achieve optimal compliance with the new High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes functionality. Hundreds of motorists who have received citations have taken the opportunity to immediately establish an account, obtain a transponder and become part of the growing ExpressLanes cadre - evidence that the grace period inspires a favorable outcome. Additionally, several new campaigns are underway to assist drivers with the requirements and opportunities to better access ExpressLanes including supplemental signage that is currently displayed on the 110 freeway. For more information please visit [www.metroexpresslanes.net](http://www.metroexpresslanes.net).**Gold Line Foothill’s Extension Bridge is Almost Complete**The new Gold Line Bridge that is being built in Arcadia is almost complete. The bridge will carry Gold Line tracks from the median of the 210 freeway towards downtown Arcadia. Habib Balian, Chief Executive Officer of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension, stated that final details are being completed on the bridge and Skanska will be turning the bridge over to the project alignment contractor in just over a week. It is anticipated that there will be up to three nighttime freeway closures during these final days of construction. The first closure occurred on Wednesday, December 5, 2012. The second one will occur on Thursday, December 6, 2012 and there may be one additional closure anticipated. To view a photo of the bridge and to read the full story as posted on The Source, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2012/12/05/gold-line-foothill-extensions-iconic-bridge-almost-complete/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=gold-line-foothill-extensions-iconic-bridge-almost-complete).[**http://thesource.metro.net/2012/12/05/gold-line-foothill-extensions-iconic-bridge-almost-complete/?utm\_source=rss&utm\_medium=rss&utm\_campaign=gold-line-foothill-extensions-iconic-bridge-almost-complete**](http://thesource.metro.net/2012/12/05/gold-line-foothill-extensions-iconic-bridge-almost-complete/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=gold-line-foothill-extensions-iconic-bridge-almost-complete) |
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