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| **Friday, December 14, 2012 121214-1**  **In this Issue:**  **USDOT Approves $15 Billion Transportation Improvement Program**  **Regional Connector Project Press Conference**  **Give the Gift of a Faster Commute on the 110 and 10**  **Cooler-Geddon Notice Update**  **Division 13 Bus Maintenance Facility Construction Notice**  **Procurement Postings for Next Week**  **Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events** |
| **USDOT Approves $15 Billion Transportation Improvement Program**  The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today jointly approved the 2013 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP), including over 1,000 Los Angeles County projects valued at $15 billion from FY 2013 through FY 2018. Metro uses an online database called ProgramMetro to enable end users to directly edit project data for later submission by Metro to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). To explore the ProgramMetro database, try this [link](http://65.74.134.88/login.asp) (internally at Metro) or this [link](https://program.metro.net/login.asp) (externally outside of Metro) and enter "view" in the user name and password fields. You may view the approval letter from USDOT [here](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/121214_2013_FSTIP_Federal_Approval_Letter.pdf). The process to get the USDOT approval today took almost a year from our original submission to SCAG on January 3, 2012. Without the USDOT approval received today, up to $5.7 billion in federal funds shown in the database could not be released as planned to Los Angeles County projects over the next several years.  <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?hl=en&q=cache:KDWTM6g5JcwJ:https://program.metro.net/login.asp%2Bhttps://program.metro.net/login.asp&gbv=2&gs_l=heirloom-hp.3...2907.2907.0.3407.1.1.0.0.0.0.62.62.1.1.0...0.0...1c.5Agq1lnf6Gg&ct=clnk>  **Regional Connector Project Press Conference**  This morning, I joined Metro Board Directors Antonio Villaraigosa, Jose Huizar and Pam O’Connor at a Downtown Los Angeles press conference to mark the official start of advanced utility relocation work for the Regional Connector Project. Utility crews have begun relocating existing underground telecommunication lines on Spring Street near the planned 2nd/Broadway underground light rail station. It is the latest construction-related milestone toward the delivery of Measure R transit projects, and will provide an improved, integrated transit system for the entire county. Several major news outlets, including Los Angeles Times, KABC 7, Downtown News, Rafu Shimpo, City News and Channel 35 attended the event, with stories expected to run today and next week. Please click [here](http://www.metro.net/news/simple_pr/Metro-begins-utility-relocation-regional-connector/) to read news release.  **Give the Gift of a Faster Commute on the 110 and 10**  For the holiday season, Metro ExpressLanes is offering a promo to encourage new FasTrak accounts. If you pick up a transponder at any one of more than 150 retail locations served by AAA, Albertsons, or Costco. Please click [here](http://www.metro.net/interactives/gmap/express_lanes_t_locations.html) to view the map. You will receive an additional $5 in toll credits applied to your account if you register the transponder by December 28, 2012. This makes a great gift because you pick up the transponder at the store, give it as a gift, and the new owner can go online at register the transponder in their name. The partnership with retail locations has served the ExpressLanes Program well. Since its inception, more than 39,000 customers have picked up their transponder at one of the retail locations. For more information on the ExpressLanes, please visit [www.metroexpresslanes.net](http://www.metroexpresslanes.net).  **Cooler-Geddon Notice Update**  Another friendly reminder that Metro will begin replacement of the six cooling towers on the Metro Headquarters building roof. A helicopter will be used to bring the old cooling towers down and lift the new cooling towers and related equipment onto the roof on **Saturday, December 29, 2012**.  To ensure safety during this work, the Federal Aviation Administration has required the following closures from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on those dates:   * Cesar Chavez Avenue and Vignes Street adjacent to the Headquarters Building * Gateway parking garage * Patsaouras Plaza (and detour of buses from the plaza) * The three Union Station tracks closest to the Headquarters Building   Please click [here](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/121214_Cooler_Geddon_Parking_Update.pdf) to read more about the details regarding Cooler-Geddon and **updated** parking arrangements for staff.  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/121214_Cooler_Geddon_Parking_Update.pdf>  **Division 13 Bus Maintenance Facility Construction Notice**  Traffic Lane Reconfiguration, K-rail Installation and Utility Relocation  As part of the Metro Division 13 Bus Maintenance and Operations Facility Project, the contractor will be relocating underground utilities along the easterly side of Vignes Street from Cesar Chavez Avenue to the Twin Towers Jail Facility. This work will be performed in two stages: one stage will include placing k-rail with fencing along this section of Vignes Street; the second will include excavation and relocation of the underground utilities. Work will take place on Saturday, December 15, 2012. Work hours are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/121214_Utility_Relocation_Construction_Notice_Final.pdf).  **Procurement Postings for Next Week**  Brake Shoes and Drums (IFB)  Procurement will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) next week to procure Brake Shoes and Drums. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from December 17, 2012 through March 31, 2013. Brake shoes and drums are needed to maintain and service all the various bus models in our fleet. Every 3,000 miles, front and rear brake shoes and drums are inspected as part of the brake inspection and brake maintenance program. Buses that have worn brake parts that require replacement are removed from service and scheduled for maintenance. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Tanya Allen, Procurement Planning Administrator, at (213) 922-1018. Improved Linkages to Gateway/Union Station (RFP) Procurement will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) next week to procure professional services for assessing and developing a linkages public improvement plan and related services in coordination with the Union Station Master Plan. The procurement blackout period is expected to run from December 17, 2012 through February 22, 2013. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Ben Calmes, Principal Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-7341. Silver Line Environmental Graphics (Signage) – Phase 1 (IFB) Procurement will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the installation of graphics, signage, and related work at three (3) Metro locations. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from December 18, 2012 through March 14, 2013. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Deneise Glover, Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-7302.  **Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events**  Next week, I will attend the LOSSAN Board Meeting and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Holiday Board Meeting. I will participate in the 100 Year Anniversary Ceremony & Employee BBQ Celebration Event for Division 5. Additionally, I will have lunch with Dodgers President Stan Kasten, Dodgers Chairman's Assistant, Nick Sandler and Metrolink CEO, Michael DePallo and will attend Metro Board Member Yaroslavsky’s annual holiday celebration. Lastly, I will attend Division 2’s Safety Forum. | |
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