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| **Monday, July 2, 2012 120702-1**  **In this Issue:**  **New Metro Pass Program for Foster Youths**  **Metro Orange Line Extension Opening Weekend Update**  **Grand Opening of the Rosecrans Avenue Improvement Project**  **Regional Connector Project Update** |
| **New Metro Pass Program for Foster Youths**  This morning Metro Deputy CEO Paul Taylor joined new Metro Board Chair Michael Antonovich in announcing an innovative new transit pass pilot program called “Youth on the Move” that provides free passes to foster youths participating in the Los Angeles County Youth Self-Sufficiency Program. Board Chair Antonovich introduced the concept, the first of its kind in the country, to benefit young people emerging from the Los Angeles Foster Care system. The new pass program will undergo a one-year pilot to determine its feasibility as an addition to Metro’s transit pass options. Numerous media, including, La Opinion, Metro Networks, KABC 790, Channel 22, Hoy Newspaper, Channel 34, KABC 7, and KNBC 4 covered the press conference, and Metro Media Relations gave follow up interviews with the LA Times, LA Daily News and KPCC, with stories expected to run today and tomorrow. Please click [here](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/120702_Director_Antonovich_Youth_on_the_Move_Photo.pdf) to view a photo from today’s event.  [**http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB\_Attachments/120702\_Director\_Antonovich\_Youth\_on\_the\_Move\_Photo.pdf**](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/120702_Director_Antonovich_Youth_on_the_Move_Photo.pdf)  **Metro Orange Line Extension Opening Weekend Update**  The Metro Orange Line Extension officially opened on Saturday, June 30, 2012, with community events at Canoga and Chatsworth Stations between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The public enjoyed free rides and festivities, which included community booths, food trucks and live music. Several media outlets covered the events, including KCBS 2, KNBC 4, KTLA 5, KABC 7, Univision 34, and Chatsworth Patch.  **Grand Opening of the Rosecrans Avenue Improvement Project**  The City of Hawthorne held a ribbon-cutting ceremony this morning, July 2, 2012, celebrating the Grand Opening of the Rosecrans Avenue Improvement Project. This project was part of the South Bay Measure R Highway Program and is the first Measure R project to be completed in the South Bay subregion. The total construction cost of the project was $3.5 million of which Metro provided $2.1 million in Measure R funds. This project included widening on Rosecrans Avenue at both north and southbound I-405 freeway ramps to Isis Avenue to relieve congestion and back up on the off-ramps and improve traffic flow on the I-405. Congresswoman Maxine Waters, the Mayor of Hawthorne Daniel Juarez, Hawthorne City Councilmembers, Metro, and Caltrans were in attendance.  **Regional Connector Project Update**  The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has granted Metro a Record of Decision (ROD) for the $1.37 billion Regional Connector Transit Corridor, officially certifying that the project has now satisfied all federal environmental guidelines. The action is an important prerequisite for Metro to begin final design of the nearly two-mile underground light rail line in Downtown Los Angeles and for the agency to seek federal funding to help build it. Regional Connector is considered one of the region’s most significant transit projects because it will connect the Metro Gold Line, Blue Line and Expo Line through downtown Los Angeles, enabling passengers to take a “one seat ride” from Montclair to Long Beach, and from East Los Angeles to Santa Monica. With the ROD now in hand, Metro can request initiation of final design and commence discussions with the FTA to secure a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA), which will constitute a federal matching contribution to the project. Metro estimates construction of the tunnel and new stations could begin in August 2013. Initial utility relocation work could begin in July of this year. Metro staff is planning a round of community meetings, estimated to take place in late August 2012, to discuss the stations and station area design process. Please click [here](http://www.metro.net/news/simple_pr/Measure-R-Project-FTA-Decision-Regional-connector-/) for link to Metro news release. | |
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