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| **Thursday, June 28, 2012120628-1****In this Issue:****Fox News Reporting on Metro Orange Line Extension****Update on Gate Locking at Wilshire/Normandie Station****Expo Line Phase 2 Construction Notice** |
| **Fox News Reporting on Metro Orange Line Extension**Last night, Media Relations staff was interviewed by Fox News for a Metro Orange Line extension story. It will probably air on Saturday, June 30, 2012. The reporter focused on whether or not Metro would add more connecting bus service to get people out of their cars. The reporter suggested that maybe service should be within an eighth of a mile of people’s homes if we expect to gain riders. Staff noted that there are more than a dozen bus lines that connect with the Metro Orange Line, which will now also connect with Metrolink and Amtrak at the Chatsworth station. Moreover, the new East Valley north-south transit project and the Sepulveda Pass Measure R transit project will likely have Orange Line connections. The City of Los Angeles receives Measure R monies it can use to enhance connecting service. There are more than 4,000 parking spaces along the Metro Orange Line from North Hollywood to Chatsworth. Staff pointed out that new apartments are being built at the location of the interview, the Canoga Park station, and more development along the line is in the works. This will help build a transit base of new riders. There also is a lengthy bike path that runs alongside the Metro Orange Line busway. Given past ridership performance, we fully expect the extension to be a success. While monitoring service needs, Metro has limited resources for expanding bus operations, and that is an important consideration. Staff noted it would be great to offer service within an eighth of a mile of people’s homes but gave the reporter a fiscal reality check.**Update on Gate Locking at Wilshire/Normandie Station**Yesterday, staff conducted a full operational readiness locking of all gates at the Wilshire/Normandie station from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., with the assistance of Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department (LASD). This included the conversion of ticket vending machines (TVMs) at this station. Patrons with paper tickets and passes were assisted by LASD for entry through turnstiles. Almost identical to the 10-week gate locking demonstration that was conducted in September 2011 through January 2012, yesterday’s data remained consistent while in full operational mode, supported with the new TVMs that have ceased to sell paper One-Way and paper Day Passes. Sale of Interagency transfers from TVMs for Metro-to-Muni bus transfers remained unchanged.  The largest number of entries were 30 Day Metro passes (27%) and TAP One-Way entries (20%). Other lesser prepaid entries included: Metro Day Passes, 7 Day passes, Access, and A-TAP passes on TAP cards. Overall results revealed that Paper passes such as EZ Transit and Metrolink transfers constituted about 22% of entries. Starting August 2012, the sale of paper EZ Transit passes will migrate to a hybrid paper-sticker and TAP card. A working group continues to pursue solutions for Metrolink. Municipal Operators who are not on the TAP system will be adopting one-time use paper Smart Cards to enable transferring customer entries through locked gates. Over the next month, staff will continue to transition all TVMs on remaining Red, Purple, Gold, Blue, Green and Metro Orange Lines and Metro Ambassadors will be assisting customers as stations transition from paper to TAP. Intermittent gate locking Operational Readiness reviews and activities will continue with the assistance of LASD. **Expo Line Phase 2 Construction Notice**As a part of the construction of the Expo Light Rail Phase 2, work crews will begin all the necessary activities to support the construction of the Centinela Avenue Bridge, including implementing new traffic controls and excavation for the bridge foundations on the Expo Right-of-Way (ROW) in the City of Los Angeles and City of Santa Monica. The work is managed and performed by the Expo Phase 2 design-build contractor Skanska-Rados Joint Venture (SRJV). Restriping traffic lane work will take place on Thursday, July 5, 2012 from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. K-rail/concrete barrier installation work will take place on Friday, July 6, 2012. Abutment excavation work will take place on Monday, July 9, 2012 through Friday, July 13, 2012. Bridge construction work will begin on Monday, July 16, 2012 and will last for approximately twelve months. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_7315uojacb.pdf). <http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_7315uojacb.pdf> |
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