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| **Wednesday, October 31, 2012121031-1****In this Issue:****Countdown to Metro ExpressLanes**: **Tip #3 –** **Multiple Measures of Success****17th Annual Gateway Child Care Center Costume Parade****Los Angeles Times Pending News Articles on Measure J****Regional Connector and Westside Subway Extension Cleared To Enter Into Final Design – Final Step Before FFGA** |
| **Countdown to Metro ExpressLanes**: **Tip #3 –** **Multiple Measures of Success**Today marks an important milestone as the [signs](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/121031_ExpressLanes.pdf) along the 110 begin to display the 10 day countdown for commuters along this corridor. As we reach the 10 day milestone before the opening of Metro ExpressLanes, it is important to consider the various metrics of success. FasTrak transponder adoption rates are at more than 20,000, with a goal of 25,000 by opening day on Saturday, November 10, 2012. Public acceptance of a new product takes time. Although Fastrak accounts are extremely important and will continue to grow, there are several other immediate critical success factors. For example, our transit ridership is already up more than 60% on the Silver Line on the 110. Torrance Transit will launch the ExpressLanes funded Line 4 Express Bus service on November 18, 2012.  Moreover, TAP card linkages to FasTrak accounts are showing immediate signs of success, expected to reach 1,000 before opening day. And with the first-ever Equity Plan for low-income commuters and a Loyalty Program for carpools, vanpools, and motorcycles, Metro ExpressLanes further distinguishes itself from comparable toll programs across the country. *About Metro ExpressLanes*Metro ExpressLanes is an exciting new endeavor. But like all new undertakings, it will take some time to become familiar with how it works, and it will take time before we experience the full benefits and rewards of this new traffic flow improvement project. We expect to see traffic flow enhancements and congestion reduction as the project progresses over time along with some immediate advantages such as new and more frequent transit service. Participant-adoption, and on-going feedback as a vital partner in this program will ensure its success as well as an improved travel experience for all drivers between the 110 and 10 freeways to downtown Los Angeles.**17th Annual Gateway Child Care Center Costume Parade** Today, the Gateway Child Care Center held its 17th annual costume parade. Staff was very anxious to see the children’s costumes and fill their “trick or treat bags” as they marched around. Some of the festive costumes worn by the children included superheroes and princesses. After the parade, about 50 kids and adults were escorted to the Metro Call Center on the 2nd floor where they received more “goodies” from the agents. This was the 8th Annual Halloween Event sponsored by Customer Relations. Please click [here](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/121031_GCC_Halloween_Photos.pdf) to view pictures from today’s fun-filled event. [**http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB\_Attachments/121031\_GCC\_Halloween\_Photos.pdf**](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/121031_GCC_Halloween_Photos.pdf)**Los Angeles Times Pending News Articles on Measure J** The Los Angeles Times is working on a series of news stories analyzing the various measures on next Tuesday’s election ballot. A piece on Measure J should run this week.**Regional Connector and Westside Subway Extension Cleared To Enter Into Final Design – Final Step Before FFGA** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will use the new and streamlined process for Section 5309 New Starts projects, as provided in MAP-21, when considering our agency’s New Starts projects. This step by the FTA will permit both the Regional Connector and the Westside Subway Extension projects to advance into their Final Design phases. Under MAP-21, the New Starts process was streamlined by creating two threshold approval steps prior to receiving a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA). The two steps are Project Development, which includes the completion of the environmental review process, selecting a locally preferred alternative and adopting a project into a fiscally constrained long range transportation plan. The second step is broadly referred to as the Engineering phase, which includes gaining commitments for all non-New Starts funding and the completion of engineering and design work. For the Section 5309 process under SAFETEA-LU, projects had to advance through three distinct phases, alternative analysis, preliminary engineering and final design prior to securing an FFGA.  We appreciate the hard work and dedication of FTA officials on our New Starts projects and the continued partnership we maintain with the FTA’s local office in Los Angeles, regional office in San Francisco and national headquarters in Washington, DC. I would also like to commend our agency staff who has worked diligently on this matter. |
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