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| **Monday, August 19, 2013 130819-1**  **In this Issue:**  **Bus Operator Focus Group**  **Eastbound Wilshire On-Ramp to Northbound I-405 to close for 90 Days – Scheduled August 22, 2013**  **Caltrans Early Morning Closure of Northbound I-5 Between the I-605 and Orange County Line**  **Expo Light Rail Line Construction Notice** |
| **Bus Operator Focus Group**  Bus Transportation management is convening an Operator Focus Group which will meet on a monthly basis to improve the line of communication between Metro management and front line employees. This effort will serve as a conduit to review employee concerns and identify agency wide solutions, to extend an opportunity for division management to develop new methods of addressing concerns from front line employees, and to provide a platform for identifying system wide issues/concerns and solutions which will allow Bus Operators and Management to work towards improving overall service delivery. The inaugural meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. until noon and will recur on a monthly basis on the third Wednesday of the month. The first meeting will be held at Division 1 and will rotate sequentially throughout the Bus divisions. To ensure a diversified representation of all Bus Operators, Division management selected two Operators from each division with varied experience. Every six months, two new Operators will be selected to represent his/her respective division. Topics for discussion will consist of issues that Operators bring forward; however, for the inaugural meeting the main area of focus will be the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Time will be allocated 30 minutes prior to the conclusion of the session for the Operators to identify topic(s) of discussion for September. Contingent upon topics requested, management representation may include Executive Leadership, Civil Right Compliance Program, Service Planning, Scheduling & Development, Instruction, Transportation, Maintenance, Planning TAP, Communications, and Law Enforcement.  **Eastbound Wilshire On-Ramp to Northbound I-405 to close for 90 Days Starting August 22, 2013**  The I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project contractor is scheduled to begin a 90-day closure of the eastbound Wilshire Boulevard on-ramp to northbound I-405 in West Los Angeles beginning Thursday, August 22, 2013. It is the last extended ramp closure that will be required for the Wilshire Interchange, as well as the last of its kind for the entire freeway improvements project. Motorists who normally utilize this on-ramp to access the northbound I-405 from eastbound Wilshire are encouraged to plan ahead to determine alternate routes, allow extra time to reach destinations, eliminate unnecessary trips to avoid peak congestion and/or consider ridesharing and public transit options. The extended duration closure is required for the contractor to demolish the existing on-ramp and build a new, significantly longer freeway on-ramp that, when complete, will have nearly 300 percent greater capacity than the current freeway ramp. The new ramp will be 3,129 feet long compared with the current ramp at 824 feet, and is expected to allow far more vehicles to queue on the ramp rather than Wilshire and Sepulveda Boulevards. The ramp will be opened to be public as soon as it is complete. The on-ramp averages 8,000 vehicles per day, according to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).  Detours   * Southbound Sepulveda Boulevard to Westbound Santa Monica Boulevard to Northbound I-405. * Alternate Route: Southbound Sepulveda Boulevard to Westbound Pico to Northbound Cotner Avenue to northbound I-405. * Night-time Route: Federal Avenue to Santa Monica Boulevard to Northbound on-ramp. Westwood Boulevard to Santa Monica Boulevard to Northbound on-ramp.   The project team will deploy traffic control officers to key locations in the morning and afternoon peak period, and traffic control strike teams will patrol and monitor the area. Portable message signs will be used to advise motorists of the closure in advance. The project team will work with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to optimize the timing of traffic signals to help facilitate the movement of vehicles through intersections. The project team also will modify ramp meters at nearby on-ramps to help motorists more easily access the northbound I-405. Following the 90-day closure of the eastbound Wilshire on-ramp, the contractor will not require any additional extended duration closures in order to complete remaining ramps. Intermittent night-time closures will still be required until all work is complete. The contractor developed alternate work plans and performed major construction activities at the interchange during night-time hours. The southbound ramps are being improved and modified and do not require complete rebuilding. Other anticipated ramp closures at Olympic and Santa Monica also will not be required.  **Caltrans Early Morning Closure of Northbound I-5 Between the I-605 and Orange County Line**  Caltrans will be fully closing the northbound Santa Ana Freeway (Interstate 5) from Valley View Avenue to Rosecrans Avenue overnight on Monday and Tuesday, August 19, 2013 and August 20, 2013 from 1:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. Work will include restriping lanes, setting K-rail concrete barriers and preparing a new temporary northbound I-5 Carmenita Road off-ramp onto a new frontage road alignment called 'New Freeway Drive'. During the closure, northbound I-5 motorists will exit at Valley View Avenue, where detour signs will direct them to re-enter the northbound I-5 using the Rosecrans Ave. on-ramp. This Caltrans work is being done as part of $1.6 billion Santa Ana Freeway (I-5) South Corridor Improvement Projects which will widen the freeway, bridges and overcrossings to add one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane and one general purpose lane from the Los Angeles County/Orange County line to I-605. For more information, visit the Caltrans webpage at [I-5info.com](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001XjtdRi-QJUxaHm-OIfROol58WYy2GjxRXM6Aa94E0BAR8-v-JEguxftquKD82OG9pWDBrxF1hipwEtcJ1catDY1Rfo9tbERXoXZRsAJuVphirLec6FFcsC92tIye8Dvzv4HA6zxhKqrc_Iz9_XgTY_Mr1I6Ffj0IAOHI66rRH0gq0s1jEtPCUKQPkYCldk-2v448SLlv-7G0T40dXwz3Kbv3nFkSVxzwzqBC2jRZoM8pF-Z1YfiGVTB-iKxK19rwqB1pQNcLe0o1exq7jN0azr5XNWeDF_KBI0DdHNIb8-U=)    **Expo Light Rail Line Construction Notice**  Full Closure of Centinela Avenue for Bridge Deck Framework Removal  As part of the construction of Phase 2 of the Expo Light Rail Line, work crews will continue with necessary activities to support the construction of the Centinela Avenue Bridge, including implementing a nighttime street closure in the City of Los Angeles. The work is being managed and performed by the Expo Phase 2 design-build contractor *Skanska-Rados Joint Venture (SRJV)*, and its subcontractors. Construction activities will take place on Centinela Avenue at the Expo right-of-way crossing on Thursday, August 22, 2013 and Friday, August 23, 2013 from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_eh5l4mkh2v.pdf). | |
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