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| **Thursday, July 25, 2013130725-1****In this Issue:****KPCC Reports on Metro’s Success Securing Competitive Federal Funding Artist** **Regional Connector Media Inquiry****Walter Hood to Create Integrated Sculptural Work for Expo Line****Upcoming Community Workshop for Union Station Master Plan** **Upcoming Closure on Northbound I-405 Off-Ramp to Sunset Boulevard**  |
| **KPCC Reports on Metro’s Success Securing Competitive Federal Funding**Yesterday, I had the opportunity to provide testimony acknowledging the expansion of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Loan program, and its significance to Los Angeles County before the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee. Metro has secured a TIFIA Loan for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor, and is currently negotiating TIFIA Loans with the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Regional Connector and Purple Line Extension transit projects. KPCC reporter Kitty Felde aired a story highlighting Metro’s success securing federal funding for projects. To read the full article and hear the aired story, please click [here](http://www.scpr.org/blogs/politics/2013/07/24/14352/la-gets-the-bragging-rights-on-snagging-federal-tr/). <http://www.scpr.org/blogs/politics/2013/07/24/14352/la-gets-the-bragging-rights-on-snagging-federal-tr/>**Regional Connector Media Inquiry**Today, KABC 7 inquired about Metro’s efforts to move forward with Eminent Domain proceedings on parcels needed to build an underground station in Little Tokyo. Metro staff provided the same update that it provided on July 8, 2013 to KTTV Fox 11, reporting that the agency has submitted an offer to the owner, who has not submitted a counter offer. To date, the agency has not reached a negotiated agreement. Metro’s offer was based on a comprehensive appraisal of the property’s fair market value. During the environmental review process, Metro project staff successfully limited the number of needed property acquisitions in Little Tokyo. Metro seeks to work closely with businesses that are displaced by offering relocation services. The story is expected to run later today. **Artist Walter Hood to Create Integrated Sculptural Work for Expo Line**Walter Hood, a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome and a winner selected to represent the United States at the 2010 Venice Biennale, has been selected to create an integrated sculptural work for the Expo Line Downtown Santa Monica Station. Hood is a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, where he was chair of the Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department from 1998 to 2002. He is also the Goldman Sachs Design Fellow for the Smithsonian Institute (Washington, D.C.), where he is assisting with the reconceptualization of the museum’s public spaces. He has exhibited his work and created projects at prominent venues throughout the nation and is the recipient of many prestigious awards and honors, most notably the Cooper Hewitt National Design Award for Landscape Design, American Institute of Architects (AIA) Award for Collaborative Achievement and the Robert Taylor Fellowship from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He was also a finalist for the President’s Park South Design Competition with the National Planning Commission. Hood is one of eight artists commissioned by Metro Creative Services who will design original artwork for seven new stations being constructed for the second phase of the Expo Line. More information is available on [The Source](http://thesource.metro.net/2013/07/22/distinguished-artist-walter-hood-to-create-integrated-sculptural-work-for-downtown-santa-monica-station/).**Upcoming Community Workshop for Union Station Master Plan** Metro will hold a community workshop in Downtown Los Angeles on Thursday, August 1, 2013 to provide an update on the Los Angeles Union Station Master Plan. Meeting details are as follows:* Thursday, August 1, 2013
* 5:30 p.m – 7:30 p.m.
* Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels
* Ballroom A/C
* 555 West Temple Street
* Los Angeles, CA 90012

The master plan will develop Metro’s vision and plan to guide future development at the station. Metro has already presented four draft alternatives for better accommodating transit activities at the station, including bus, Metro Rail, Metrolink, Amtrak and future arrival of high speed rail. The August 1, 2013 meeting will present refinements to these draft alternatives that incorporate stakeholder input from earlier public meetings, as well as further technical analysis.**Upcoming Closure on Northbound I-405 Off-Ramp to Sunset Boulevard**The I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project contractor is scheduled to begin a 120-day closure of the northbound I-405 off-ramp to Sunset Boulevard in West Los Angeles beginning August 3, 2013. Northbound freeway motorists that normally utilize the Sunset off-ramp to access Westside destinations 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 complete building a longer off-ramp that, when complete, will be 60 percent longer than the current off-ramp, contain 60 percent more capacity to store vehicles and more effectively separate traffic from Sunset Boulevard and the northbound I-405. The new configuration will feature two northbound right-turn lanes to eastbound Sunset and one northbound left-turn lane to westbound Sunset. Please see additional information below: Westbound Sunset Detour* Daytime: Northbound I-405 off-ramp to westbound Wilshire Boulevard, to northbound Sepulveda Boulevard, to eastbound Sepulveda Way, to westbound Sunset Boulevard.
* Alternate: Moraga Drive off-ramp, to southbound Sepulveda Boulevard, right on Church Lane to Sunset Boulevard.
* Nighttime: Northbound I-405 off-ramp to westbound Wilshire Boulevard, right on northbound San Vicente Boulevard, right onto north Barrington Avenue, left onto westbound Sunset Boulevard.

Eastbound Sunset Detour* Northbound I-405 off-ramp to eastbound Wilshire Boulevard, to northbound Veteran Avenue to eastbound Sunset Boulevard.

Existing Conditions During 120-Day Closure* Sepulveda Way acceleration lane will remain open as is.
* Sepulveda Boulevard and Church Lane intersection will see lane reduction and height restrictions.
* Temporary false work bent at the median will be added at Bronwood and Sepulveda; left-turn restrictions will apply.
* Sepulveda Boulevard will operate at full capacity in peak directions during peak hours.
* Sepulveda Boulevard fully closed from Montana Avenue to Moraga Drive at night from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

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. Project improvements at Sunset Boulevard, including complete reconstruction and widening of the Sunset Bridge over the I-405, widening of the Church Lane undercrossing and construction of area retaining walls constitute some of the project’s most significant roadway improvements. For additional project information or to obtain detour maps, visit [www.metro.net/405](http://www.metro.net/405). Follow the project on social media at [www.facebook.com/405project](http://www.facebook.com/405project) and <http://twitter.com/I_405>. For real-time traffic conditions, visit Caltrans web site at [www.quickmap.dot.ca.gov](http://www.quickmap.dot.ca.gov).   |
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