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In this Issue:

Former Executive Director Of California Transportation Commission Passes Away
Los Angeles Times Inquiries on Metro ExpressLanes Performance
Expo Light Rail Line Construction Notice

Former Executive Director Of California Transportation Commission Passes Away

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) adjourned its March 5, 2013 meeting in memory of former Executive Director, Bimla G. Rhinehart, who passed away early that morning. Bimla Rhinehart was appointed as the Executive Director of the Commission in 2009 and she retired from State service in February 2013. Prior to her appointment as the Commission's Executive Director, she spent nearly twenty three years with the California Department of Transportation, serving in various leadership roles. She was an active board member of the California Transportation Foundation and an active member of the Sacramento Chapter of the Women in Transportation Seminar, where she was recognized as Woman of the year in 2010. In addition, she was a role model and a mentor for transportation professionals throughout California. Metro staff worked closely with Ms. Rhinehart to advance the funding and support of our agency's projects and programs through the CTC. Most recently, Ms. Rhinehart was very helpful in helping to foster a partnership between Caltrans, the CTC and Metro to ensure the Interstate 5 project stayed on schedule and in resolving the issues surrounding the funding for the Interstate 5 project. A memorial service is being scheduled to honor Bimla and her contributions to transportation and a memorial scholarship fund will be established in her honor. Please visit catc.ca.gov for updates. To view the full press release, please click [here](#).

<http://catc.ca.gov/>

http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/130307_Bimla_Rhinehart.pdf

Los Angeles Times Inquiries on Metro ExpressLanes Performance

This week, two reporters with the Los Angeles Times inquired on the performance of the Metro ExpressLanes along the Harbor Freeway and the San Bernardino Freeway. The reporters were told that volume drop in the lanes is typical when converting High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes and that a ramp up period is needed as motorists get use to the new technology and become more familiar with how the ExpressLanes operate. The reporters were told that along the Harbor Freeway portion of the ExpressLanes program we have noticed a 23% increase in traffic volumes using the lanes, with 39,820 vehicles per work day using the lanes when we opened in November compared to last week when we recorded over 49,000 vehicles per work day using the lanes. The reporters were also told that over 115,000 transponders have been issued and that over the one-year demonstration period Metro and Caltrans will be evaluating several areas of the program including travel speeds and travel time improvements along both the HOT lanes as well as the general purpose lanes. We will also be looking at transit ridership, van pool creation as well as accessibility for low income motorists. Stories may appear later this week.

Expo Light Rail Line Construction Notice

Pile Installation for Pico Boulevard Bridge Construction

As part of the construction of the Phase 2 of the Expo Light Rail Line, work crews will continue with additional activities to support the construction of the Pico Boulevard Bridge, including implementing new traffic controls and installing bridge piles along Pico Boulevard and the Expo Right-of-Way (ROW) 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. This construction work will take place on Monday, March 18, 2013 from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 through Tuesday, April 30, 2013 from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Saturday work hours are scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](#).

http://www.buildexpo.org/pdf_uploads/cons_84hjn4ih2j.pdf

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