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| **Thursday, November 7, 2013 131107-1**  **In this Issue:**  **I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project Wilshire Ramp Opening Press Event**  **Telemundo TV to Run a Story on the Benefits of Riding Metro this Holiday Season**  **Metro Hosts the United States High Speed Rail Conference**  **Metro Hosts Wounded Warrior Alumni Employment Event**  **Expo Light Rail Line Construction Notice** |
| **I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project Wilshire Ramp Opening Press Event**  Today, Metro Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky, along with K.N. Murthy, Executive Director of Transit Project Delivery, Michael Barbour, Deputy Executive Director of Transit Project Delivery, and a Caltrans representative, participated in the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project Wilshire Ramp Opening Press Event. The final ramp opening ends so-called “Ramp Jam” at the Wilshire Interchange. The “flyover” ramp, originally scheduled for a 90-day closure, was completed approximately two weeks ahead of schedule. The updated ramp has nearly three times more capacity than the original ramp, allowing more vehicles to queue on the ramp rather than on Wilshire and Sepulveda Boulevards. The new ramp configuration also makes it more efficient for motorists to get on and off the freeway. Combined, the rebuilt ramps add 75 percent additional capacity to the interchange. KCBS 2/ KCAL 9, KNBC 4, KTLA 5, KABC 7, KTTV 11, KFI, KNX, KABC Radio, USC Annenberg News, KAZA Azteca America, and Univision covered the opening during the early morning live shots and press conference. Stories are expected to run today and tomorrow. For the complete story as posted on The Source, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2013/11/07/major-405-project-milestone-all-wilshire-ramps-now-open/).  <http://thesource.metro.net/2013/11/07/major-405-project-milestone-all-wilshire-ramps-now-open/>  **Telemundo TV to Run a Story on the Benefits of Riding Metro this Holiday Season**    Media Relations staff spoke with Telemundo TV, a Spanish language television network, about the benefits of being a Metro rider during the holidays. Commuting by transit can reduce the added stress of holiday traffic. For example, on Black Friday, November, 29, 2013, Metro will offer extended service hours at night so that patrons can stay out late for dinner and entertainment and be able to return home without being stranded at midnight. In addition, the Metro Destination Discounts program also offers great discounts at different venues when riders show a valid TAP Card. Staff noted that one of the best ways to stay up-to-date with Metro is through our apps. Metro apps allow the public to obtain information on bus and rail schedules, detours, Nextrip bus/rail arrival, maps, trip planner, service alerts, and news and information. Stories will run in the next few days.  **Metro Hosts the United States High Speed Rail Conference**  This week during November 5-7, 2013, our agency hosted the United States High Speed Rail Conference at our headquarters building. For the first two days of the conference, speakers such as Senator Cathleen Galgiani, former Assembly Member Fiona Ma, Assembly Member Roger Dickinson, California High Speed Rail Board Member Katherine Perez-Estolano, Senator Leland Yee, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Deputy Administrator Karen Hedlund, and Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty discussed passenger rail transportation needs in the United States and what is needed to advance passenger and high speed rail. Topics of discussion included developing infrastructure, funding needs, and funding strategies. Today, Karen Hedlund led a round table discussion with economic leaders and public transportation agencies on the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program (RRIF). This discussion involved strategizing on methods to take advantage of this program and using it to accelerate key projects and programs.  **Metro Hosts Wounded Warrior Alumni Employment Event**  Yesterday, Metro’s Strategic Workforce Planning and Human Resources departments held an employment networking meeting with over 30 Alumni of the Wounded Warrior Project.  Speakers at the event highlighted several opportunities and careers paths available at Metro for veterans. Additionally, representatives from the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department (LASD) and our Bus Operator Bridge Academy staffing partners, Wilshire-Metro WorkSource Center and Los Angeles Valley College, highlighted career opportunities available to veterans in their respective programs. Breakout sessions allowed participants to work one-on-one with our Human Resources staff to prepare online applications for future job opportunities. Attendees were also able to network with our staff to learn more about the functions and services provided in various departments, including Rail Communications, ITS, Procurement and Supply Chain, and Metro Security. To view photos of the event, please click [here](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/131107_Wounded_Warriors_Employment_Event.pdf).  <http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/131107_Wounded_Warriors_Employment_Event.pdf>  **Expo Phase 2 Light Rail Line Construction Notice**  **tober 17lly on an item, the Chair may allow one (1) minute per speaker to maximize time allowed for public input.vidial enting**  Full Closure of Eastbound Pico Boulevard for Bridge Falsework Installation  As part of the construction of Phase 2 of the Expo Light Rail Line, work crews will temporarily close Pico Boulevard for bridge falsework installation 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. Bridge falsework installation work will take place in the eastbound lanes of Pico Boulevard between Sawtelle Boulevard and Gateway Boulevard. Construction activities will take place beginning, Sunday, November 10, 2013 and continue through Thursday, November 14, 2013, from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://www.buildexpo.org/wp-content/uploads/110113-EXPO-P2-CONSTRUCTION-NOTICE-Updated-Pico-Bridge-Construction-Falsework-Installation.pdf). | |
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