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| **Monday, September 23, 2013 130923-1**  **In this Issue:**  **L.A. Focus Spotlights Crenshaw/LAX Business Opportunities Summit**  **38th Metro Bus Roadeo**  **Metro Blue Line Safety Press Event**  **Opening of Key I-405 Flyover Ramp at Wilshire Boulevard**  **Caltrans Construction Notice: I-10** |
| **L.A. Focus Spotlights Crenshaw/LAX Business Opportunities Summit**  Today, I spoke with L.A. Focus regarding the upcoming Crenshaw/LAX Business Opportunities Summit. The Summit is a forum for Metro to inform and educate local small businesses in the Crenshaw/Inglewood communities about the broad range of economic opportunities associated with the development of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor. In addition to educating the attendees about the business and job opportunities available with Metro and contractor Walsh/Shea, Michelle Caldwell, Chief Administrative Services Officer, mentioned Metro will have staff available to make sure people know how to take advantage of the business and job opportunities. The Summit will take place on Monday, October 28, 2013 at the California African American Museum. L.A. Focus will publish the story in their October issue in advance of the Summit.  **38th Metro Bus Roadeo**  This past Saturday, September 21, 2013, I attended the 38th Metro Bus Roadeo finals. The winning bus operator, Juan Navarro, hails from Division 3. By coming in first, Navarro will represent Metro at the Southern California Regional Bus Roadeo, which will take place next spring. Last year Metro's bus operator placed first at regionals, and hopes are high again! Coming in second was Herman Gavia, also of Division 3, and Felipe Patlan-Gutierrez of Division 1 took third. The winning maintenance team comes from Division 8 and will also be heading to the SoCal Regional Bus Roadeo. I would like to congratulate everyone who participated in this year’s event and thank all who came out to support the competitors. To view a video from the 38th Metro Bus Roadeo, please click [here](http://www.simplesend.com/simple/t.asp?S=336&ID=&NL=4423&N=82954&SI=4255814&URL=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eyoutube%2Ecom%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DEFV4aRe0QtM%26feature%3Dyoutu%2Ebe).  **Metro Blue Line Safety Press Event**  This morning, we held a Metro Blue Line safety press event to appeal for the public’s help in stopping a trend of suicides on the busy Metro Blue Line. Three of the four deaths on the Metro Blue Line in 2013 have been suicides. Last year at this time there were eight deaths on the line including four suicides. Metro Board Chair Diane DuBois and Metro Deputy CEO Paul Taylor were joined by suicide prevention experts, a former train operator involved in a fatality, safety ambassadors and law enforcement officers who fanned out after the event to cite pedestrians and motorists for unsafe behavior around the rail station and tracks. Media attending today’s event included Channels 2, 9, 7, and 62; Fox News; Associated Press; the Los Angeles Times; KFI and KPCC radio outlets. The Associated Press is planning to run a national story this morning. Other stories are expected throughout the day.  **Opening of Key I-405 Flyover Ramp at Wilshire Boulevard**  Our Media Relations department has issued a [news release](http://thesource.metro.net/2013/09/23/i-405-project-milestone-first-massive-flyover-ramp-opens-at-wilshire-interchange/) announcing that the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project has opened a brand new, longer and safer “flyover” ramp at the Wilshire/I-405 interchange in Westwood. The southbound I-405 off-ramp to eastbound Wilshire Boulevard was open for its very first workday rush-hour commute this morning and has significantly greater capacity than the previous off-ramp. When all work is complete, the rebuilt ramps combined will add 75 percent more capacity to the Wilshire-405 interchange, bringing capacity to 2031 travel demands. It is the latest construction milestone in the ongoing delivery of I-405 project improvements. The Los Angeles Times has inquired about the ramp opening, with a story expected to run today or tomorrow.  **Caltrans Construction Notice: I-10**  The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will close portions of the San Bernardino Freeway (I-10) as part of the High Occupancy Vehicle lane construction project. Construction is planned for portions of the I-10 freeway to add an HOV lane in each direction of I-10 between I-605 and Puente Avenue. Closures are scheduled to begin Monday, September 23, 2013 through Thursday, September 26, 2013, with the full closure of the Bess Avenue pedestrian overcrossing through fall, 2013. For more details regarding the closure, please view the full story posted on The Source by clicking [here](http://www.simplesend.com/simple/t.asp?S=336&ID=&NL=4423&N=82954&SI=4255814&URL=http%3A%2F%2Fthesource%2Emetro%2Enet%2F2013%2F09%2F23%2Fthis%2Dweeks%2Dclosures%2Don%2Dthe%2Di%2D10%2F). | |
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