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| **Monday, December 8, 2014141208-1**  **In this Issue:**  **Metro Artworks at El Monte Station Featured on KCET**  **First Light Rail Vehicle Enters Gold Line Foothill Extension Tracks**  **Caltrans Interstate 5 Construction Notice** |
| **Metro Artworks at El Monte Station Featured on KCET**  Artworks at the Metro Silver Line El Monte Station are featured on KCET’s "East of East," a series of original essays about people, things, and places in South El Monte and El Monte. The essays include images of the 8x8-foot art panels as well as photographs and interviews with the artists. Commissioned by Metro Art, four artists created a total of sixteen artworks that enliven the four transit bays at the station with imagery celebrating the cultural heritage of the area and examining the ways we cross paths in transit. To read the full stories about each artist, please click [here](http://www.kcet.org/socal/departures/columns/east-of-east/). For the archived story of the El Monte stations artwork as posted on The Source, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2014/06/18/el-monte-station-outfitted-with-new-art/).  **First Light Rail Vehicle Enters Gold Line Foothill Extension Tracks**  This morning, I witnessed an important milestone take place for the Gold Line Foothill Extension. A light rail vehicle from the Metro fleet entered into the Foothill Gold Line project jurisdiction for the first time. The vehicle was outfitted with specialized gear to test clearances, wheel/rail interface, rail switches, and the Overhead Catenary System. Testing will take place over the next two weeks between Arcadia and Irwindale and will include live wire testing between California Avenue in Monrovia and the San Gabriel River Bridge in Irwindale where power is now energized. There is plenty more work to be done but Metro is one step closer to opening the project for the public. The pre-revenue testing is expected to begin in 10 months and the project will likely open in spring 2016. This Measure R funded project continues on time and on budget. For photos and the complete story as posted on The Source, please click [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2014/12/08/clearance-testing-begins-for-gold-line-foothill-extension-project/).  **Caltrans Interstate 5 Construction Notice**  Between SR-118 and SR-170 The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will implement closures as part of a project to construct High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and a direct HOV lane connector at the I-5/SR-170 interchange. Closures are scheduled to occur from Sunday, December 7, 2014 through Friday, December 12, 2014. To view the complete Caltrans notice, please [here](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/141208_I5_Arleta_Closure.pdf). | |
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