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| **Wednesday, December 10, 2014141210-1**  **In this Issue:**  **Measure R Funded Highway Project in Malibu Complete**  **Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Spending Bill Includes Key Provisions That Benefit Metro**  **UCLA Anderson Forecast 2014 Economic Outlook**  **Expo Phase 2 Construction Notice** |
| **Measure R Funded Highway Project in Malibu Complete**  **This morning, Metro Board Member and Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Metro Deputy CEO Lindy K. Lee, City of Malibu Mayor Skylar Peak, City of Malibu Councilmembers and Caltrans officials participated in a ribbon cutting near the intersection of Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and Kanan Dume Road in the City of Malibu. The ceremony was to mark the completion of several safety enhancements near the intersection including an improved runaway truck arrester bed to slow a runaway truck, helping to prevent a collision at the intersection. For photos and the complete story as posted on The Source, please click** [here](http://thesource.metro.net/2014/12/10/ribbon-cutting-for-safety-improvements-at-pch-intersection-in-malibu/)**.**  **Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Spending Bill Includes Key Provisions That Benefit Metro**  Last night, the U.S. House of Representatives released the text of a Federal Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bill (H.R 83) that will keep the Federal Government operating through September 2015. Included in the spending package are several funding levels and provisions that are of importance to our agency. In order to pass H.R. 83, Congress may have to pass a short term Continuing Resolution in order for the bill to clear procedural timelines in the House and Senate before the current Continuing Resolution expires tomorrow. Please find below two provisions of H.R. 83 that favorably impact our agency:  Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grants (New Starts) - $200 Million The Capital Investment Grant level included in H.R. 83 is $2.1 billion, which provides a sufficient level of funding for the FTA to award Metro’s two Full Funding Grant Agreement Projects (Regional Connector and Purple Line Extension-Segment 1) their annual allocation of $100 million each for Federal Fiscal Year 2015. Securing $200 million in New Starts funds in one Federal Fiscal Year is more than triple our historical average for this federal funding category.  Federal Local Hire Policy – America Fast Forward Consistent with Metro’s Board approved federal legislative program, language that was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Representative Karen Bass to allow for local hiring for transportation projects using federal funds was included in H.R. 83. In September of 2011, our Board of Directors amended our America Fast Forward initiative to include reforming federal Local Hire policies as a major goal for our agency.  Metro is deeply appreciative of Representative Bass for her strong, thoughtful and consistent leadership on this issue. Following enactment of H.R. 83 into law, we will promptly follow up with the U.S. Department of Transportation to clearly and fully understand their interpretation of this change in federal Local Hire policy. For a link to our Board Report on amending the America Fast Forward initiative, please click [here](http://simplesend.com/simple/t.asp?S=336&ID=75555&NL=4423&N=93037&SI=2084469&URL=http://boardarchives.metro.net/Items/2011/09_September/20110922RBMItem30.pdf).  **UCLA Anderson Forecast 2014 Economic Outlook**  Today I participated in a panel called “Planes, Trains and Automobiles: Moving the California Economy” at the UCLA Anderson Forecast December 2014 Economic Outlook. The panel and I entertained a variety of questions including, “Will a failing infrastructure thwart growth in the years ahead?” “Do geysers at UCLA portend an infrastructure impaired future?” and “How long does Los Angeles’ infrastructure investment compare to other cities?” This County’s infrastructure is critical to its success and I was happy to represent an agency which, thanks to the voters who passed Measure R in 2008, is leading the largest public works program in the nation to ensure that our transportation infrastructure enables, not impedes, a bright future.  **Expo Phase 2 Construction Notice**  Roadway Improvements As part of construction of Phase 2 of the Expo Light Rail Line, work crews will implement lane and street closures to compete roadway improvements on Venice Boulevard in the City of Los Angeles. A continuous weekend closure of northbound Robertson Boulevard, north of Venice Boulevard and the Eastbound I-10 Freeway Robertson off ramp will occur from 9:00 p.m. Friday, December 12, 2014 through 6:00 a.m. Monday, December 15, 2014. All work will be pending per weather conditions. The work is being managed and performed by the Expo Phase 2 design-build contractor *Skanska-Rados Joint Venture (SRJV)* and its subcontractors. To view the complete construction notice, please click [here](http://www.expovenice.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/120914-EXPO-P2-CONSTRUCTION-NOTICE-Venice-Blvd-Roadway-Improvements-REV.pdf). | |
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