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| **Wednesday, October 1, 2014 141001-1In this Issue:2014 Metro Charitable Giving CampaignDraft EIS/EIR Released for High Desert Corridor Project2015 Call for Projects Applicant WorkshopMetro and Google enter Traffic PartnershipTAP-TO-GO Pilot Program Now Offers Metro 7-Day Pass** |
| **2014 Metro Charitable Giving Campaign**  The Metro Charitable Giving Campaign makes it easy for Metro employees to give back to our community. Continuing the success of prior campaigns, the 2014 Campaign will begin visiting Divisions Wednesday, October 1, 2014 through Thursday, November 13, 2014 with visits to the Metro Headquarters building on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 and Wednesday, November 5, 2014.  The organizations involved in this year’s Campaign include, [Asian Pacific Community Fund](http://apcf.org/) (APCF), [The Brotherhood Crusade](http://www.brotherhoodcrusade.org/), [Community Health Charities of California](http://california.healthcharities.org/) (CHCC), [EarthShare California](http://earthshareca.org/), [The United Latino Fund](http://www.unitedlatinofund.us/) (ULF), [UNCF – United Negro College Fund](http://www.uncf.org/) and the [United Way of Greater Los Angeles](http://www.unitedwayla.org/). Through the campaign, donations may also be made to the charity of your choice. For more information, please contact Ernie Ruben at (213) 922-7082 or  [rubene@metro.net](mailto:rubene@metro.net).  **Draft** **EIS/EIR R****eleased for High Desert Corridor Project**  [Asian Pacific Community Fund](http://apcf.org/) (APCF), [The Brotherhood Crusade](http://www.brotherhoodcrusade.org/), [Community Health Charities of California](http://california.healthcharities.org/) (CHCC), [EarthShare California](http://earthshareca.org/), [The United Latino Fund](http://www.unitedlatinofund.us/) (ULF), [UNCF – United Negro College Fund](http://www.uncf.org/) and the [United Way of Greater Los Angeles](http://www.unitedwayla.org/). Through the campaign, donations may also be made to the charity of your choice.  For more information, please contact Ernie Ruben at (213) 922-7082 or  [rubene@metro.net](mailto:rubene@metro.net).  Yesterday, Caltrans and Metro released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the High Desert Corridor (HDC) Project. The HDC is proposed as a Strategic Multipurpose Corridor that could potentially accommodate a highway, bikeway, an energy production and/or transmission facilities and a High Speed Rail (HSR) Feeder/Connector service.  Metro and Caltrans will be hosting four public hearings in the study area between Wednesday, November 5, 2014 and Thursday, November 13, 2014, where the public can learn more about the project, speak with agency staff and provide input. Two of the four public hearings will include a live webcast component for stakeholders who prefer to participate remotely. The formal public comment period for the Draft EIS/EIR will end at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2014. Hardcopies of the document are available at several locations along the proposed HDC main corridor alignment. To submit comments, obtain more information about the project, and to view the Draft EIS/EIR, please click [here](http://www.metro.net/projects/high-desert-corridor/). The Draft EIS/EIR is also accessible [here](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/HDC/HDC_Draft_EIR-EIS/) along with locations of where the hardcopy document is available to the public.  **Metro and Google enter Traffic Partnership**  Metro and The Regional Integration of Intelligent Transportation Systems (RIITS) program recently concluded negotiating a partnership agreement with Google’s crowd-sourcing traffic app, [Waze](http://www.waze.com). This partnership with Waze is part of their Connected Cities global initiative. On Wednesday, October 1, 2014 Waze introduced its inaugural ten international partners (W10), of which Los Angeles will be one of five jurisdictions within the United States. This partnership will enable RIITS to share Waze traffic incident and road-closure data to help customers outsmart congestion and improve mobility throughout Los Angeles County.  RIITS is a multi-agency partnership between Metro, Caltrans, City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation, and other agencies to share a variety of transportation data. Metro, through RIITS, will coordinate and administer the collection, exchange, and use of the data on behalf of our partners in the Southern California Region.  The data provided by Waze can be used by partner agencies to improve the operation and management of their road network as well as distributing new information to the public regarding traffic conditions. Once the data is obtained from Waze, Metro will work with our partner agencies to assist them with the integration and use of the data into their daily operations. For more information about RITTS please click [here](http://www.riits.net).  **2015 Call for Projects Applicant Workshop**  Yesterday, Metro hosted a well-attended Workshop for potential project applicants for the 2015 Countywide Call for Projects process. Approximately 160 people participated in the Workshop, the purpose of which was to provide information on the new program and application requirements for the 2015 Call. The Workshop provided a forum for applicants to ask questions and explore project ideas. Participants were also given the opportunity to attend a series of break-out sessions with each of the modal leads to ask questions and to obtain additional technical information on specific projects for which they would be submitting applications in January 2015.  The Workshop was one in a series of eight workshops to be conducted throughout the County. The draft Call application package will be presented to the Metro Board of Directors at the Regular Board Meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, October 2, 2014.  **TAP-TO-GO Pilot Program Now Offers Metro 7-Day Pass**  Now, Metro riders can reload a 7-Day pass anytime, anywhere. In addition to the 30-Day pass, Weekly pass holders can now enjoy the convenience of simply texting TAP7DAY to 28950 to have their pass available for immediate use. All it takes is 5 steps to get started for a fast, safe and easy alternative to reloading Metro passes. Normal text message data rates apply and users must have a credit or debit card. Participants are issued a special TAP card that is good through to the conclusion of the pilot, December, 2014. For more information, please click [here](http://taptogo.net/taptogomobileaxept.php). | |
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