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| |  | | --- | | **Wednesday, January 2, 2013 130102-1**  **In this Issue:**  **U.S. Senate Confirms Yvonne Burke for Amtrak Board**  **Congress Approves Extension Of CNG Tax Credit And Commuter Tax Benefit Program** | | |
| **U.S. Senate Confirms Yvonne Burke for Amtrak Board**  The full U.S. Senate has confirmed President Obama’s nomination of former Los Angeles County Supervisor and California Transportation Commissioner Yvonne Burke to serve on the Board of Directors of AMTRAK. Commissioner Burke will join the Board of Directors that oversees AMTRAK, the informal name for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation. Metro staff have been in consistent communication with Commissioner Burke to provide information on the importance of AMTRAK in enhancing mobility across the State of California and specifically in southern California. We congratulate Commissioner Burke on the Senate’s action to confirm her nomination and look forward to working with her as she begins her efforts as a member of the AMTRAK Board of Directors.  **Congress Approves Extension Of CNG Tax Credit And Commuter Tax Benefit Program**  As part of the fiscal cliff legislation adopted by the Senate and House yesterday, a provision was included that will extend (through December 31, 2013) the increase in the monthly exclusion for employer-provided transit and vanpool benefits from $125 to $240.  By increasing the monthly exclusion for transit and vanpool participants, the benefit now matches those provided for employer-provided parking benefits.  Also included in the fiscal cliff legislation was a provision to extend, for one year, the CNG tax credit. In addition to being extended through December 31, 2013, the CNG tax credit language included in the final bill provides for the tax credits to be retroactive for 2012.  This benefit is worth approximately $20 million to our agency.  Metro is deeply appreciative to our U.S. Senators and Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation members for supporting both the commuter transit tax benefit and CNG tax credit language in H.R. 8, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 that was cleared by the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday. |
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