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Public Hearing for the I-5 Capacity Enhancements Supplemental EIR/ER

Last week, Thursday, March 28, 2013, close to fifty residents from the Santa Clarita Valley attended a Public Hearing at Santa Clarita City Hall to provide public comment on the Draft Supplemental EIR/Environmental Reevaluation (Draft SEIR/ER) for the I-5 Capacity Enhancements Project. The Public Hearing was part of the formal process to update the environmental documents from High Occupancy Vehicle lanes to High Occupancy Toll lanes. Residents voiced concerns over the need for new sound walls and tolling. Business Groups spoke in support of accelerating the project. The comment period for the Draft SEIR/ER runs until April 15, 2013. The project currently faces an approximate funding shortfall of \$100 million and the Measure R portion is not available until 2040. If the new carpool lanes are tolled, the project can be completed by 2019 instead of 2040.

Measure R Oversight Committee Public Hearing

The Measure R Independent Taxpayer's Oversight Committee held a public hearing yesterday, Tuesday, April 2, 2013 to receive public comment on the Committee's Draft Annual Report on the Measure R independent audits. The draft report and related audits have been distributed to libraries across the county, as required by the Measure R Ordinance and notice of the public hearing was posted in various newspapers. No public comments were received and the Committee approved their Annual Report for final production and distribution to the Metro Board. The Committee also received an update on efforts to develop a proposed Measure R Project Finance Acceleration Plan.

Los Angeles Times Story Regarding Metro ExpressLanes

The Los Angeles Times is preparing a story looking at the first three months of operation of the Metro ExpressLanes along the Harbor Freeway. The reporter interviewed staff regarding the recently released preliminary report on the performance so far along the Harbor Freeway ExpressLanes. It was also noted that currently more than 135,000 transponders have been issued, representing a significant growth. The story is expected to run sometime this week.

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