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**Reminder to Go Metro to the Festival of Books Event**

This morning, Los Angeles Times book critic, Hector Tobar, and musical groups, The Jasper Dickson Revue and Max Lugavere, took the stage at Union Station East Portal to promote going Metro to the upcoming Festival of Books event. This event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 20, 2013 and Sunday, April 21, 2013 at USC and will offer readings, musical performances along with various family friendly activities. Metro has three rail stops that serve USC off the Expo Line: Jefferson/USC, Expo Park/USC and Expo/Vermont. The Metro Silver Line also drops off at 37th/USC. We encourage those attending to show their TAP card when buying official Festival of Books merchandise to receive a 10% discount. To view pictures, please click [here](#).

<http://thesource.metro.net/2013/04/10/an-early-reminder-to-go-metro-to-festival-of-books/>

**Los Angeles Times Inquires About New Start Funding in President's Budget**

A Los Angeles Times reporter from Washington, who is writing about the President's budget proposal, asked if the proposal included funding for the Purple Line extension and the Regional Connector. Staff noted that it includes \$130 million for the two projects, \$65 million each, for Fiscal Year 2014. The two projects should also secure full funding grant agreements by the end of this calendar year. Government Relations staff told the reporter that this is very positive news and added that, historically, Metro has averaged approximately \$80 million in annual federal New Starts funding so the proposed \$130 million is 60 percent higher than the norm.

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