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Today, I was interviewed in Washington by KNX, KFWB and KABC radio regarding ridership gains on the Metro system. In addition, the Daily News also called Media Relations on the same subject. The inquiries were prompted by a report issued today by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) noting that public transit ridership across the country had its second highest annual total since 1957, despite the impact of Hurricane Sandy. In Los Angeles, Metro had 39.1 million boardings for January 2013 compared to 37.3 million combined bus and rail boardings in January 2012 and 36.5 million boardings in January 2011. The increase is largely due to gains in rail ridership driven by the Expo line opening last year and the recovering economy. Bus ridership year over year is flat, however significant gains were made on the Silver Line express bus service and the Metro Orange Line, which was extended four miles to the Chatsworth Metrolink station last year. Stories are expected today and tomorrow.

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