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**American Society of Civil Engineers Give America's Infrastructure D+ In Annual Report Card – Report Highlights America Fast Forward Initiative**

Today, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released their annual report card on America's infrastructure, giving our nation's aging infrastructure a grade of D+. The quadrennial report is entitled "Report Card For America's Infrastructure" and was crafted by a committee of approximately 30 engineers from around the nation, including our agency's Deputy CEO Paul Taylor. The report examined a wide variety of America's infrastructure and was particularly critical of the state of our nation's roads, transit and aviation facilities, giving this portion of our infrastructure a grade of D. Political figures, including the Ranking Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV) reacted to the report by criticizing plans to reduce the federal government's committee to transportation programs and projects. In a statement released in response to the release of the ASCE report, Congressman Rahall commented, "It is high time that we move beyond just rhetoric when it comes to the state of our infrastructure and recognize that it is about the money." With respect to transit funding, the report notes that, "Although investment in transit has also increased, deficient and deteriorating transit systems cost the U.S. economy \$90 billion in 2010, as many transit agencies are struggling to maintain aging and obsolete fleets and facilities amid an economic downturn that has reduced their funding, forcing service cuts and fare increases." With respect to roadway funding, the report notes that a lack of federal funding has resulted in the following: "Forty-two percent of America's major urban highways remain congested, costing the economy an estimated \$101 billion in wasted time and fuel annually."

The ASCE report includes a section that highlights our Board-approved America Fast Forward initiative. "Los Angeles County's move from car capital of the world to transit capital of the United States is being driven by \$15 billion in transit funds approved by county voters and with the assistance of America Fast Forward, the innovative finance section of MAP-21, America's new surface transportation law. America Fast Forward offers over \$20 billion in new federal lending power over the next two years. By helping communities leverage their transportation resources and stretch federal dollars further than they have been stretched before, America Fast Forward will reshape our nation's infrastructure while employing tens of thousands of workers to build a stronger and more mobile America. Implementing America Fast Forward in Los Angeles County alone will create over 160,000 highway and transit construction-related jobs, increase ridership by an estimated 77 million trips per year, reduce emissions from vehicles, and save an estimated 10.3 million gallons of gasoline annually." A full copy of the ASCE's Report Card

for America's Infrastructure may be found by clicking [here](#).

[http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/?utm\\_campaign=GR-20130319-Report%20Card%20Launch%20Email%201%20Member&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Eloqua](http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/?utm_campaign=GR-20130319-Report%20Card%20Launch%20Email%201%20Member&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua)

### **Key Wilshire Off-Ramp Opens Ahead of Schedule**

Metro's [I-405 project](#) contractor, Kiewit Infrastructure West, reopened the Southbound I-405 off-ramp to Westbound Wilshire Boulevard at approximately 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning March 16, 2013 - a full week ahead of schedule. Kiewit was able to begin partial construction of the new ramp in advance, minimizing the need for an extended closure. The ramp opening is the latest example of how Metro and Kiewit are committed to opening key project deliverables as soon as they are completed. The Northbound I-405 off-ramp to Eastbound Wilshire Boulevard is scheduled to take three weeks and will start this summer. Specific dates will be released as soon as they're available.

### **"Parking the Future" Parking Forum**

On Thursday, April 11, 2013, we will hold our "Parking the Future" Parking Forum from 7:45 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. The Parking Forum brings together representatives from many of the County's cities, private parking operators, parking technology providers and academics to discuss parking in the region. The "Parking the Future" forum is a lively discussion of public parking policies and a review of successful parking strategies adopted by some cities. Metro's past parking forums have been clearing houses for new and innovative parking ideas, policies and technologies. This year's forum will continue that tradition and will provide numerous opportunities to expand parking knowledge and improve operations. From our early morning sessions focused on *designing an efficient parking lot* to our later sessions designed to *challenging public parking policy or land use notions*, this year's forum is critical to our future parking practices and policies. Included this year is a review of the proposed West Hollywood's fully automated parking garage (the first for the County) and a review of recent academic research on the "right" level of parking for new development. This interactive format encourages a vibrant exchange of information and participation among everyone – speakers and attendees. Metro's end goal includes regular gatherings of a countywide parking working group that will help shape the future of our regional parking policies and help improve parking and mobility opportunities.

### **Filming On Metro System**

KPCC 89.3 has interviewed Communications executive staff regarding the selection of the firm Hollywood Locations to handle filming requests on the Metro System. Staff reported that the revenues we receive from filming go to help offset transit operations costs. The access to Metro's transit properties also helps keep entertainment industry jobs in Los Angeles. Metro takes care to ensure that filming does not interfere with regular transit service to customers. The story is expected to run this afternoon.

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