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I-10 ExpressLanes/EI Monte Busway Closure

The El Monte Busway and I-10 ExpressLanes will be closed this weekend, March 22, 2013 through March 23, 2013 between Alameda Street and the I-710 Freeway from 10:00 p.m. Friday to approximately 5:00 p.m. Saturday. The closure is necessary to complete Caltrans road work, which was planned for last week but was postponed due to the Los Angeles Marathon.

The closure will impact the Metro Silver Line, Lines 485 and 487. Buses that usually use the Busway will be detoured into the general purpose freeway lanes on the I-10 Freeway. The ExpressLanes will also not be available in the closure segment. Metro will run a Silver Line Shuttle Special during the closure between the El Monte Bus Station and Flower and 7th/Metro Center. The shuttle will travel surface streets to serve local station stops at Cal-State L.A. and Los Angeles County (LAC)/USC Medical Center and Busway/Alameda Station. Shuttles will run approximately every 60 minutes. Local Lines 70 & 71 can also be used for Cal-State L.A. and LAC/USC Medical Center. Regularly scheduled Silver Line service from El Monte and Artesia Transit Center will have no change in posted departure times.

Regional Connector Project

The Downtown News has inquired about the Regional Connector Community Leadership Council that has been established to provide ongoing community engagement for the project. Metro Community Relations staff reported that it held a 2nd/Hope station area meeting two weeks ago where the project team presented conceptual station drawings that are included in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) bid package. Two options are under consideration: one with a bank of high speed elevations to reach the 90-foot deep platform in 11 seconds; and a second more traditional layout that includes a series of escalators and stairs. There are currently no plans to build an elevator at this station to reach Grand Avenue from Hope Street, but Metro continues to remain open to public input and comment. Staff reported that the project's RFQ is due in May. The Request for Proposals (RFP) process to select a design-build contractor will follow and take approximately a year to complete. Construction would begin in late 2014. The story is expected to run in the print edition on Monday.

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