

# CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

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In this Issue:

**Metro Awarded Employer of the Year at WTS Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner**  
**Asian American Architects and Engineers Luncheon**  
**Metro Orange Line Celebrates 10 Years of Service**  
**Century City Chamber of Commerce Transportation and Jobs Summit**  
**Metro Union Station Master Plan Design Team Awarded “Next LA” Merit Award**  
**APTA Peer Review Panel Conducted for Human Resources**  
**Metro Participates in the Valley Economic Alliance Transportation Summit 40th Annual Bus Rodeo**  
**Greenlight a Vet and Union Station East Portal Aquarium Renovation**  
**Next Purple Line Extension Project Community Meeting Next Week**  
**Procurement Postings**  
**Construction Notices – Expo Phase II, Green Line, Purple Line Extension, Regional Connector, I-5**

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## **Metro Awarded Employer of the Year at WTS Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner**

Yesterday evening, Metro was honored to receive the Employer of the Year Award at WTS' 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles. I would like to thank City of Duarte Councilmember and Metro Vice Chair John Fasana and Metro Board Member Carrie Bowen for representing Metro at this event and Metro Deputy CEO Stephanie Wiggins for accepting this award on behalf of the agency.

WTS Los Angeles is the largest chapter of WTS, a 5000-strong international organization dedicated to the advancement of women in transportation. Metro's commitment to excellence in service and support, outstanding record of diversity in hiring and promotion at all levels, support of continuing education and professional development for employees and our support of WTS all contributed to this outstanding honor.

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## **Asian American Architects and Engineers Luncheon**

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to speak at the Asian American Architects and Engineers Luncheon at the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles. I was able to share with them, the important role architects and designers have as Metro moves forward with its Transit Oriented Communities (TOCs) and joint development programs. These programs showcase Metro's efforts to take a more expansive approach to integrating transit into communities; Metro is elevating the importance of high quality designs for our TOCs and joint development sites. I look forward to seeing proposals from architect and design firms that display high quality designs with great pedestrian areas and connectivity to transit.

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## **Metro Orange Line Celebrates 10 Years of Service**

Yesterday morning, I was pleased to join LA County Supervisor and Metro Board Chair Mark Ridley-

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Thomas, Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Second Vice Chair Eric Garcetti, LA County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Sheila Kuehl, LA City Council Member and Metro Board Member Paul Krekorian and a host of other elected officials, former Metro Board members, community members and stakeholders to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the Metro Orange Line, one of the most innovative and successful Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lines in the country. I would also like to give special thanks to former Metro Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky for helping to celebrate the line he fought very hard for.

Daily ridership on the line has nearly doubled from 16,000 boardings per weekday in 2005, to 29,000 boardings per weekday in 2015. The line has accommodated 74 million boardings in the last decade and boasts a 91 percent on-time performance record.

To continue providing excellence in service and support, new improvements and amenities are planned for the line, including a pedestrian underpass connecting the Metro Red and Orange Lines, a new park & ride lot and an off-street bike path near the North Hollywood Station. Also, a new pilot bus line will commence Sunday, March 5, 2016, that will better connect the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys. Officials also noted recent legislation that allows for future use of double-articulated buses to increase customer capacity on the Orange Line.

The Orange Line has become an essential element to the balanced transportation system that Metro strives to create where many mobility options are available including bus, rail, bike and pedestrian pathways. I look forward to the continued success of this line as it grows and develops with the years to come.

For photos and the complete story as posted on The Source, please click [here](#).

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### **Century City Chamber of Commerce Transportation and Jobs Summit**

On Wednesday morning, I participated in a panel discussion at the Century City Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Transportation Summit that was moderated by former Metro Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky. Joining me on the panel were Expo Chief Operating Officer Samantha Bricker, Los Angeles World Airports Director of Environmental and Land Use Planning Lisa Trifiletti, and LADOT General Manager Seleta Reynolds. I discussed our capital programs ranging from the Purple Line Extension, to the Airport Metro Connector, to Expo Phase 2 and how each of these pillars of Los Angeles' transportation communities are working together to improve mobility throughout the region. I took this opportunity to describe how Metro is seeking to take advantage of federal funding to accelerate some of our high profile projects, and also highlighted the Office of Extraordinary Innovation which will facilitate our Public-Private Partnerships. Following the event, I had the opportunity to tour Century City and view the footprint of the future Purple Line station, construction staging areas, station portal at Constellation Boulevard and Avenue of the Stars and tunnel alignment. The Century City Chamber has been a strong partner for Metro and a longtime supporter of our initiatives.

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### **Metro Union Station Master Plan Design Team Awarded "Next LA" Merit Award**

The American Institute of Architects – Los Angeles (AIA-LA) held their annual design awards ceremony in Little Tokyo on Thursday, October 29, 2015. Metro's Union Station Master Plan (USMP) design team, led by Gruen Associates and Grimshaw Architects was awarded with one of ten "Next LA" merit awards, which honors designs and plans for projects that are as yet unbuilt. Congratulations to the design team and to Metro's Planning Department for their work on this innovative and future-thinking plan, and we will continue to work hard to move this plan from "unbuilt" to "built."

Also, Metro recently finalized the [Connect US Action Plan](#), and the [Transforming Los Angeles Union Station Summary Report](#), both available for download on Metro's website. In addition, a new USMP

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animation video that shows the phased implementation of the Union Station Master Plan can be found midway down the project website, [here](#).

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### **APTA Peer Review Panel Conducted for Human Resources**

Metro requested the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) to convene a panel of Human Resources (HR) Leaders from within the transportation industry to review Metro policies, procedures and practices in the areas of Talent Management, Acquisition and Development. During the week of October 26, 2015, the peer review was conducted by a panel of HR professionals ranging from Chief Performance Officer, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Washington D.C.; Vice President, Human Resources, VIA Metropolitan Transit in San Antonio, Texas; Regional Manager, Utah Transit Authority in Salt Lake City, Utah; to Senior Human Resources Executive, Regional Transportation District, Denver, Colorado.

The panel members were impressed at the level of energy Metro has for the human side of our business; they interviewed scores of customers and other stakeholders. Everyone they heard from was passionate about how Metro can improve on our delivery of HR Services. The panel will produce a final report built around areas where they saw opportunities to make improvements including but not limited to: streamlining of processes to maximize efficiencies, further developing HR team members to be effective business partners, modernizing the compensation system, and optimizing use of technologies.

The peer review provided valuable feedback with strong assistance in prioritizing HR's Action Plan. Metro HR department was invigorated by the high level of time and energy being spent on this service area and they are looking forward to rolling up their sleeves to make effective changes. The final report will be complete by the end of this calendar year.

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### **Metro Participates in the Valley Economic Alliance Transportation Summit**

Last Monday, October 26, 2015, Metro Deputy CEO Stephanie Wiggins represented Metro at a Transportation Summit hosted by The Valley Economic Alliance. The panel discussion was chaired by former Metro Board Member Richard Katz and California State Senator Bob Hertzberg. Stephanie had the opportunity to introduce Dr. Joshua Schank, Chief of the newly created Office of Extraordinary Innovation. The Summit provided a good opportunity to hear from a wide range of San Fernando Valley stakeholders about their transportation priorities. Attendees included local elected officials and representatives of community colleges, environmental organizations and Neighborhood Councils.

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### **40th Annual Bus Roadeo**

Tomorrow, Saturday, November 7, 2015, is the 40th Annual Bus Roadeo taking place at Metro's Central Maintenance Facility at 490 Bauchet Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The contest and festivities begin at 7:00 a.m. and continue until noon. Come out for a fun day of free activities, entertainment, exhibits, car show and support our talented bus operators and mechanics as they compete to be the best among their peers. Winners of this competition will proudly represent Metro at the Regional Roadeo in April 2016 and at APTA International Bus Roadeo in Charlotte, North Carolina in May 2016. This is a family event, so don't leave anyone behind!

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### **Greenlight a Vet and Union Station East Portal Aquarium Renovation**

Tomorrow, Saturday, November 7, 2015, through Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2015,

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the south side of the Metro Gateway Headquarters building will be bathed in green light to honor our veterans as part of a nationwide program called [Greenlight a Vet](#). America's veterans are some of our nation's bravest, hardest-working men and women. However, it is hard to show them the appreciation they deserve when back home and out of uniform they are more camouflaged than ever. Greenlight a Vet is a campaign to establish visible nation support for our veterans by changing one light to green.

Also taking place on the Union Station property this coming week is a renovation of the aquarium. After 20 years in service, the East Portal Aquarium will undergo much needed renovation to replace life-support equipment. A construction barrier will be up beginning Wednesday, November 11, 2015, until the project is completed in April 2016. All of the current tropical fish will be adopted out to new homes at aquariums across the country.

The original design for the aquarium included California indigenous fish species living in cold water found off the California coast. When constructed in 1995, water from the Union Station Gateway Building air conditioning system was used to keep the water cold. Unfortunately, occasional problems with the building equipment were catastrophic for the fish. Eventually, the cold water fish were replaced by tropical fish living at ambient temperatures. The aquarium project includes the addition of a completely independent chiller and a salt water storage tank in order meet Metro's contractual obligations to the artist to restore the aquarium to its original design intent. When the aquarium reopens, it will be stocked with native California species including Swell Sharks, California Moray Eels, Copper Rockfish, Giant Kelpfish, Garibaldi, and California Spiny Lobster. For more information on the livestock, please click [here](#).

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### **Next Purple Line Extension Project Community Meeting Next Week**

Thursday, November 12, 2015, Metro will be hosting its next Purple Line Extension Project Community Meeting to receive input on options to perform necessary closures for street decking work. Two options for closing Wilshire Boulevard are being considered for the decking operation, which will place temporary concrete slabs on Wilshire Boulevard to allow Metro's contractor to continue station construction below ground. The community meeting, co-presented by Los Angeles City Council Member David Ryu, will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the John Burroughs Middle School Auditorium at 600 S. McCadden Place, Los Angeles, CA 90005. For more information as presented on the community meeting flyer, please click [here](#).

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## Procurement Postings

### Pavement Replacement at Division 15 (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure a contractor to remove the existing asphalt pavement and replace with a long lasting durable concrete pavement as outlined in the Specifications. The resultant Contract, if awarded, will be state/locally funded, and is subject to fiscal year funding. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, November 06, 2015 through Thursday, December 10, 2015.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Noelle Valenzuela, Contract Administrator, ELT at (213) 922-3647.

### Executive Recruitment (RFP) Small Business Prime

Metro will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure Professional Recruitment Services for Program Management. **This solicitation is open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Tuesday, November 10, 2015 through Sunday, January 31, 2016.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) is initiating a significant expansion with numerous programs and is seeking the services of a recruiter (Consultant) to assist it in filling professional and management level positions in all technical areas of Light and Heavy rail design and construction as required. The recruiter must have a proven track record of success in filling such positions for other agencies and/or firms.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Linda Rickert, Sr. Contract Administrator at (213) 922-4186.

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## Construction Notices – Expo Phase II, Green Line, Purple Line Extension, Regional Connector, I-5

### Expo Phase II: Train Testing in Santa Monica this Weekend

- Train testing activities will occur along the Expo Line tracks from 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Olympic Boulevard to 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Colorado Avenue in the City of Santa Monica
- Activities will occur Saturday, November 7 and Sunday, November 8, 2015 from 5:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Traffic signals will be operating on regular cycles while Metro sheriff's will be monitoring all crossings to ensure safety of all pedestrians, motorists, and train personnel
- The testing is necessary as we lead up to full train service in Spring of next year. Please obey all traffic signs and signals.

### Metro Green Line: Between Vermont/Athens and Long Beach BI Stations -- Station Closures for Improvements This Weekend

- As part of signaling system improvements on the Green Line, train service will be replaced by bus shuttles between Vermont/Athens and Long Beach BI Stations
- Metro is providing bus shuttle service that will stop for pickups and drop offs at all stations between Vermont/Athens and Long Beach BI Stations
- The stations will be closed from 9:00 p.m. Friday, November 6, 2015 through Sunday, November 8, 2015, close of service.

### Purple Line Extension Project Section I: UPDATE – Traffic Reconfiguration Work at Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue

- The traffic reconfiguration work for Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue is rescheduled for Friday,
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November 6, 2015 at  
9:00 p.m. through Monday, November 9, 2015 at 6:00 a.m.

•The operation will reduce Wilshire Boulevard from three lanes to two lanes in each direction, from Highland Avenue to Cloverdale Avenue

•This work is necessary to prep Wilshire Boulevard for future pile installation for the Wilshire/La Brea Metro station.

Regional Connector Transit Project: Full Closure of Central Avenue – Between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

•Pile drilling, steel pile installation and other work for the future Central/1<sup>st</sup> Street station will require a full street closure

•A full street closure of Central Avenue between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Little Tokyo will begin Saturday, November 7,

2015 at 7:00 a.m. and continue approximately two-weeks

•Anticipated work hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., 7 days a week.

Caltrans Interstate 5: All construction updates

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*“I’ll ride that Orange Blossom Special and lose these New York Blues”  
~Johnny Cash*

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