

CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

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Represented in the Workforce: Girls Build LA

On Thursday, Metro hosted approximately 50 female high school students from schools around Los Angeles County to participate in the Girls Build LA event in the Metro board room. The event, organized in collaboration with the LA Fund, introduced the students to careers in transportation and the various career opportunities at Metro. Students heard from Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Chair Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Hilda Solis, and Metro Board Member Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker. Additionally, the event welcomed speakers from various departments at Metro including the Office of the CEO, Planning, and Operations, and included tours of Metro's Public Art Program in Union Station and Bus Operations Control. Speakers highlighted Metro's dedication to having a workplace that is focused on gender equality and advancing female representation throughout transportation and within our workforce, especially in nontraditional roles. Speakers also emphasized the importance of education and celebrated female empowerment.

Girls Build LA is part of an initiative in LA County to help build the skills high school age girls need to be successful in a diverse range of fields and professions. Events like Girls Build LA help introduce transportation careers to future generations and attract and prepare talent to join our workforce as our system grows. For photos and a story as posted on The Source, please click [here](#).

Over 100 Businesses Attend Metro for Vets

On Tuesday, Metro Board Member Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, along with Deputy CEO Stephanie Wiggins, welcomed Veteran Owned Businesses to Metro for the monthly 'Doing Business with Metro' outreach and the inaugural Metro for Vets resource fair. Over 100 Veteran owned and disabled Veteran owned businesses gathered in the Board Room for the event. The Metro executive team was pleased to honor and reaffirm Metro's commitment to the Veteran community. Joanne Peterson, Executive Officer of Talent Acquisition, discussed Metro's Veteran hiring initiative, which seeks to increase hiring of returning service members. Ivan Page, Interim Executive Director of Vendor/Contract Management (V/CM), and Tashai Smith, Interim Executive Officer of Diversity & Economic Opportunity (DEOD), discussed Metro's programs and initiatives, which are designed to provide greater access to contracting opportunities for small business owners and disabled Veteran owned businesses. Melissa Park, Veteran Transportation & Community Living Initiative Program Manager presented a live demonstration of the new "VetsGO511" webpage and app, which provides

instant access to transportation and social services for Veterans. Yvonne Price of Metro's Accessibility Unit highlighted Metro's commitment to accessibility and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

I'd like to commend Wayne Gross from the State of California's Department of General Services and staff from V/CM, DEOD, Civil Rights, Marketing, Public Relations, Community Relations, Metro's African American Employee Association and Filipino American Association for their teamwork in making this event a success. I'd like to especially acknowledge the hard work of Darlene Williams, who brought the idea forward at a Rappin' with Phil session and the DEOD team, who helped to put this and all 'Doing Business with Metro' events together.

The event was covered on LA County Channel's LA Now Show.

Freeway Interchange Named for Medal of Honor Recipient

Also on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at Ritchie Valens Park in Pacoima, Metro was joined by United States Ninth Circuit Court Judge Harry Pregerson, the U.S. Army, Caltrans and war veterans to commemorate the naming of the interchange of Interstate 5/CA-118 Ronald Reagan Freeway for David M. Gonzales, who was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously in 1945 for heroic acts during World War II in the Philippines. Four generations of the Gonzales family attended the solemn ceremony at which the Medal of Honor citation signed by President Harry Truman was read by Judge Pregerson. U.S. Army Fort Irwin Garrison Commander Colonel Scott Taylor represented the Army and was accompanied by a color guard from Fort Irwin. The Six-String Soldiers, an element of the U.S. Army Field Band in Fort Meade, Maryland, performed the national anthem and other patriotic selections. David M. Gonzales, Jr., who was only four years old when his father was killed in action, expressed thanks on behalf of the Gonzales family.

The Account of David Gonzales' Heroism:

On April 25, 1945, during the battle of Villa Verde Train on Luzon, Private Gonzales and his company, Company A, 127th Infantry, 32nd Division was pinned down by enemy fire. A 500 pound bomb exploded at the company's perimeter burying five men of Company A. Without hesitation, PFC Gonzales "seized an entrenching tool and, under a hail of fire, crawled 15 yards to his entombed comrades." His commanding officer, who also rushed forward to help, was struck and instantly killed by machine gun fire. Undismayed, PFC Gonzales "set to work swiftly and surely with his and the entrenching tool," and continued to dig out the trapped men. He did this while enemy sniper fire and machine gun bullets "struck all about him."

After PFC Gonzales had successfully freed one of the men, he stood up to be able to dig faster, despite the fact that such a position exposed him to greater danger. He successfully freed another man, but as he "completed the liberation of the third" trapped man, PFC Gonzales was mortally wounded by enemy fire. In the words of President Harry Truman, "Private Gonzales' valiant and intrepid conduct exemplified the high tradition of the military service." The other two buried soldiers were later saved when the intense enemy fire subsided. PFC Gonzales was survived by his 25-year-old widow, Mrs. Steffanie Gonzales, his four year old son, David Gonzales, Jr., and his mother, Mrs. Rita Gonzales Duran.

For photos of the event, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

Value a Veteran – Metro's First Annual Veteran's Luncheon

On Monday, November 9, 2015, Metro hosted its first ever Veteran's Luncheon in the Historic Union Station Old Ticket Room. It was inspiring to join Metro Board Chair Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second Vice Chair Eric Garcetti, and Directors Michael Antonovich, Mike Bonin and Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker in

addressing a room of over 200 Veterans and active service members within our Metro family. Highlights included the Metro Express Band, food from Homegirl Café, and a ceremony to honor the United States of America featuring Metro's Color Guard, a performance of our National anthem by Sascha Lynch, and the Pledge of Allegiance. Our speakers expressed their gratitude and hit on the themes of empowering the community of Veterans at Metro and around Los Angeles, strengthening the bridge from service to employment, and highlighting Metro's small business and veteran workforce initiatives.

I was also honored to introduce Sergeant First Class Dennis Tucker on his first day of employment with Metro. Mr. Tucker is our new Veterans Program Manager and brings with him 22 years of experience in recruiting and training both commissioned and non-commissioned military personnel in the Army and 2 years of experience focusing on initiatives to bolster veteran employment training and development. By joining Metro, Mr. Tucker joins over 540 strong in continuing his service in a new capacity. His new duty description: to provide excellence in service and support managing Metro's Veteran Outreach Program and consulting me, the Senior Leadership Team and our departments on the opportunities ahead.

Our program was punctuated by our Keynote Speaker, Master Sergeant Kristine Hesse, who encouraged everyone in the room to reach out to a Vet on Veterans Day or before the December holidays, as well as to encourage Veterans and their families to take advantage of the programs and resources available. Her message, to "Value a Veteran" is something I encourage every employee to honor those who answered the call of our Nation. Freedom is not free.

2015 Metro Bus Roadeo Awards Excellence

On Saturday, November 7, 2015, the Metro family enjoyed a fun family day full of food, music, and fierce competition at the 40th Annual Bus Roadeo.

Bus Operator Fabrisio Contreras from Division 15 emerged as the top operator, and Division 3 Operators Juan Navarro and Jose Bueno Vargas took 2nd and 3rd place, respectively. These three distanced themselves from a competitive field of 30 who competed in the finals.

In the maintenance category, the Division 1 team of Jose Moya, Chris Valenzuela, and Miguel Tapia won top honors in the seven maintenance events. The Division 10 team of Alain Gomez, Armando Solis Jr, Ricardo Huerta took 2nd place, and the Division 5 team of Randy Davidson, Mauricio Banuelos, Martin Mejia took 3rd.

For the first time, the top finishers will be awarded cash prizes, with the Maintenance Teams splitting their total prize amount equally amongst their members. The prizes are as follows:

1st Place - \$1000
2nd Place - \$500
3rd Place - \$250

The 1st place operator and the 1st place maintenance team will represent Metro at the APTA International Roadeo in Charlotte, North Carolina in May 2016.

While the competition was going, the families were entertained by a live band, balloon artist, a kids jumper, a trackless train, and a car show. Thank you to all who came out to compete and support another successful Roadeo, and congratulations to the winners.

Metro's Eat Shop Play Local Awards 9 Lucky Winners

Metro's Eat Shop Play Local campaign awarded a total of \$5,250 to winners of its October Quarterly

Drawing contest across the Regional Connector (RC), Crenshaw/LAX (CLAX) and Purple Line Extension (PLE) Projects. The drawings are part of an incentives-driven effort to bring focused attention to neighborhood businesses impacted by construction of three rail lines currently under construction. Although heavy construction can appear messy at times, it is important to note that access to all your favorite businesses remains available.

"Local businesses rely on support from the surrounding communities, especially during times of construction" explains JC Lacey, manager of the program. The overall goal of Eat, Shop, Play, is to make it easier for the public to Eat at local eateries, Shop and local retailers and Play at Local destinations, during and after construction.

For a chance to win the cash prizes, customers of participating businesses submitted copies of receipts along with their contact information to Metro (enter at www.metro.net/eatshopplay). Nearly 100 businesses participate in this free outreach program. Customers' names were entered into drawings and three winners were selected from each project area. A \$1,000 grand prize, a \$500 second prize and a \$250 third prize were awarded on Wednesday, October 21, 2015. "Eat, Shop, Play Local is all about uncovering local neighborhood gems and spreading the word", says Lily Liang of the RC project in Little Tokyo and DTLA.

Quarterly Drawings are scheduled to continue throughout completion of construction for each project. The next series of drawings is scheduled for February 2016. Click "Take the Pledge" at www.metro.net/eatshopplay to receive email alerts and reminders.

A special thank you goes out to the October sponsors listed below. Metro values the partnership and appreciates the contributions of:

- CLAX - HNTB, Roy Willis & Associates, Jecarco Entertainment/Dream Magic Studios, Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce.
 - RC – Regional Connector Constructors
 - PLE – Skanska Traylor Shea
-

Thank You for Making Transportation around LA Possible

I recently received a message from a customer who took the time to let us know how we are doing; please see what he had to say below:

Hi Phillip,

I am a recent transplant from Austin to Santa Monica, and just wanted to say thank you for all your efforts expanding LA's public transportation. I was told I NEEDED a car in LA and I brought one. However, I barely touch my car once a week.

I bike to where I need to go (thank you bike lanes and Google Maps) and I take the bus (R3 to the airport, 720 to the museums, 1 around SM). Last week I saw the Lakers (& Kobe) play for the first time: I took the bus to Culver City, met some friends, and we hopped on the rail right to staples center. Couldn't have been easier or less expensive. Let me tell you, nothing felt better knowing that I was cutting down on LA's smog as we literally soared above traffic.

Really looking forward to the Metro Rail Expansion in Santa Monica in the next few months. Cannot wait to explore more of Downtown, without worrying about drinking, driving, or parking.

Thank you for making transportation around LA possible.

-S. Segal

Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project Complete

On Monday, November 16, 2015, the last 0.9 miles of peak hour bus lanes on Wilshire Boulevard will open. This final segment from Centinela Avenue to Federal Avenue adds to the 6.8 miles of dedicated peak period bus lanes currently in operation. With the opening of this final segment, there will be a total of 9.9 miles of street, signal and signage improvements and 7.7 miles of dedicated peak hour bus lanes in both directions on Wilshire Boulevard, stretching through the heart of the City of Los Angeles between Centinela Avenue and South Park View Street (excluding segments in Beverly Hills and Westwood).

Metro operates Metro Rapid service Line 720 every two minutes on Wilshire Boulevard west of downtown during peak hours, making it the highest ridership Metro Rapid line in the system. The project was funded through a federal Very Small Starts (VSS) grant. The grant of \$23.3 million was paired with an \$8.2 million local match. This project was a multi-agency effort involving extensive collaboration between Metro, the City of Los Angeles, and County of Los Angeles.

For more information including the Metro press release as posted on The Source, please click [here](#).

Tell Us: Where do you Want Bike Share in DTLA?

Metro Countywide Bike Share is coming to Downtown Los Angeles in Summer 2016, and we need your help in selecting the best station locations. The city of Los Angeles and Metro have teamed up on the pilot, conducting preliminary studies, hosting two rounds ([here](#) and [here](#)), of public feedback and narrowing the potential station site number to 100. The program will feature up to 1000 bicycles and 80 stations, and your feedback is critical in helping the implementation team put those bicycles where they can best serve the area.

Visit [metro.net/bikeshare](#) to view the bike share map showing proposed station locations. Tell us why you like or dislike a location directly on the map, and don't forget to share with your networks using #BikeShareLA. The deadline for comments is Thursday, December 31, 2015.

For more information, including criteria which can help weigh the value of each location, please click [here](#).

Procurement Postings

FSP Big Rig Freeway Service Patrol Services (RFP)

Metro will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure big rig freeway service patrol towing services. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Tuesday, November 17, 2015 through Monday, May 9, 2016.

Metro is seeking big rig freeway service patrol towing services to provide continuous roving patrol vehicles and service assistance to disabled vehicles during contracted hours on Beat 60 (I-710 Long Beach Freeway) and Beat 61 (SR-91 Riverside Freeway). Metro intends to award separate contracts for Beats 60 and 61.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Aielyn Dumaua, Senior Contract Administrator at (213) 922-7320.

Construction Notices – Green Line, I-5

Metro Blue Line: Bus Shuttles Replace Rail Service – Between 7th Street/Metro Center and Vernon Stations

- Various upgrades and replacement of components will take place on the Blue Line this weekend between 7th Street/Metro Center and Vernon Stations
- Bus shuttle service between the closed stations will begin Friday, November 13 at 9:00 p.m. through Sunday, November 15, 2015, close of service
- Customers must use the Expo Line service out of the 7th/Metro Center Station to transfer to the shuttle bus service at the 23rd/LATTC Expo Line station.

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

- Pile drilling, steel pile installation and other work for the future Central/1st Street station will require a full street closure
- A full street closure of Central Avenue between 1st Street and 2nd Street in Little Tokyo began Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 7:00 a.m. and is continuing approximately two-weeks
- Anticipated work hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., 7 days a week.

Caltrans Interstate 5: All Construction Updates

“Freedom is not free.”
~Colonel Walter Hitchcock



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