

# CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

Phillip A. Washington  
Chief Executive Officer

Friday, March 4, 2016

160304-1

In this Issue:

**Keynote at League of Cities Monthly Meeting**  
**2016 Active Transportation Summit and Draft Active Transportation Strategic Plan**  
**Rosecrans/Marquardt Grade Separation Public Hearings**  
**Announcing the Brand New North Hollywood to Pasadena Express Line Regional Connector Transit Project Making Headway**  
**Is It Lunch Time Yet?**  
**Grand Opening of the Gold Line Foothill Extension Taking Place Tomorrow – Free Rides!**  
**CicLAvia Returns to the San Fernando Valley this Weekend**  
**Procurement Postings**  
**Construction Notices – Blue Line, I-5**

---

## **Keynote at League of Cities Monthly Meeting**

Yesterday evening, I was the keynote speaker at the monthly general membership meeting of the League of Cities, LA County Division. About 80 Mayors, City Council Members and other local representatives were in attendance including City of Duarte Councilmember and Metro Vice Chair John Fasana and State Senator Bob Huff. I provided an overview of the work we have been doing to develop the draft expenditure plan that we will ask the Board to release later this month. I also explained that after the Board acts, we will embark on an extensive public outreach effort to gather feedback before returning to the Board in June and that staff recommendations might change as a result of that input. I discussed staff efforts to try and balance out the need for new projects, state of good repair, local return and other demands. I noted that we are currently modeling and sequencing each sub-region's requested projects and the recommendations would be within the targets established.

During my remarks, and later in response to questions about local return, I noted that the extension of Measure R and the addition of a new sales tax would "double-up" the amount that cities are receiving. I shared my optimism that our new unsolicited proposal policy would likely bring in offers that would allow us to accelerate at least some of our highway and transit projects by 15 years or more. Lastly, I stressed the important role that Mayors will play should the Board choose to move forward with a ballot measure and asked for resolutions of support. In addition to local return and other aspects of the potential ballot measure, I fielded questions about goods movement, first/last mile connections, efforts to enhance the transit rider experience, and connections to the new NFL stadium in Inglewood.

---

## **2016 Active Transportation Summit and Draft Active Transportation Strategic Plan**

On Tuesday, March 1, Metro First Vice Chair and Duarte City Councilmember John Fasana welcomed everyone to the first annual Active Transportation Summit hosted by Metro here at our Headquarters. This summit was held to gather feedback on the Draft Active Transportation Strategic Plan (ATSP) and connect practitioners to resources and services that can help lead to implementation of safer and more accessible streets for all users. Metro recently released the Draft ATSP – which identifies needs, resources, and strategies to improve and increase walking, bicycling and transit use in LA County – for public review and comment.

---

Over 250 stakeholders attended the Summit, including government representatives, planners and

engineers, traffic safety professionals, public health and injury prevention professionals, advocates, community and non-profit organizations, and transit riders. There was a facilitated discussion on the Draft Plan and then attendees broke out into an interactive “meet and greet” session with 25 exhibitors working on topics related to active transportation implementation such as funding, grant writing and administration, community outreach, data collection and analysis, Safe Routes to School, planning and engineering, and education and encouragement. For a few photos of the event, please click [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

The deadline for submitting comments to the Draft ATSP is Friday, March 25, 2016 and it is scheduled to go before the Board for their consideration in April 2016. Visit <https://www.metro.net/projects/active-transportation-strategic-plan/> to view the plan. For more information regarding Metro’s active transportation programs, please visit [www.metro.net/walkbikeroll](http://www.metro.net/walkbikeroll).

---

### **Rosecrans/Marquardt Grade Separation Public Hearings**

Also on Tuesday, Metro held two public hearings to solicit comments on the environmental impacts for the proposed Metrolink/BNSF/Union Pacific grade separation located in the City of Santa Fe Springs. Both hearings were held at the La Mirada Resource Center and were attended by 25 people comprised mostly of business and property owners impacted by the project. These hearings follow two public meetings held last September, as well as presentations before the City Councils of La Mirada and Santa Fe Springs, and numerous one-on-one meetings with impacted property owners and tenants.

This intersection has been rated by the California Public Utilities Commission as the most hazardous grade crossing in California. Over 112 trains and over 45,000 vehicles use this crossing each day. This level of traffic and the configuration of this crossing have led to a high rate of incidents. Both the City of Santa Fe Springs and the Metro Board recently voted for a preferred second alternative overpass.

You can visit <https://www.metro.net/projects/regionalrail/> and click on the “Projects & Programs” tab to find the *Rosecrans/Marquardt Grade Separation* project for more information including a copy of the *Alternative Development Report*. Construction is anticipated to start in April 2018.

---

### **Announcing the Brand New North Hollywood to Pasadena Express Line**

On Monday, I joined Metro Vice Chair and City of Duarte Councilmember John Fasana, Metro Second Vice Chair and Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti, Metro Board Member and Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, and Metro Board Member and Glendale City Mayor Ara Najarian for a press conference at the Metro Gold Line Del Mar Station to announce the March 1, 2016 launch of the NoHo to Pasadena Express. This new limited stop service will connect the Metro Red and Orange Lines in the San Fernando Valley, the Burbank Media District and Glendale with the Metro Gold Line in Pasadena. Metro customers will no longer have to travel to Downtown Los Angeles to make transit connections between the two valleys. Considered the missing link in Metro’s transit system, the new express bus pilot will utilize carpool lanes on the 134 freeway- the main freeway artery connecting these two regions. For photos and a full story on the NoHo to Pasadena Express Line as posted on The Source, please click [here](#).

---

### **Regional Connector Transit Project Making Headway**

The Regional Connector Project is progressing on multiple fronts. This past Saturday, February 27, the 6-month closure of the 2nd/Broadway intersection was successfully implemented. The closure will

---

allow for extensive utility work to take place at the intersection and once complete, it will allow tunnel and station construction to begin. As part of this closure, buses have been detoured to Hill Street and Spring Street. The closure also allowed for the implementation of fifteen new "Head-start Crosswalks" in Downtown LA. At Historic Core and Civic Center intersections, pedestrians get a 4-second head-start to walk out into the intersection and be more visible to motorists, resulting in safer streets. A press conference announcing these intersection upgrades was held with City Council Member Jose Huizar and LADOT this past Wednesday.

Also, testing of Gold Line tracks in Little Tokyo/Arts District will start the week of March 14, in preparation for the reopening of the Little Tokyo/Arts District Station on March 21, bringing to a close the Shoofly bus bridge between Union Station, Little Tokyo/Arts District and Pico/Aliso Stations.

Lastly, pile and decking operations on Hope Street are completed with excavation of the 2nd/Hope Station progressing. Pile installation will soon begin on Flower Street between 4th and 5th Streets in the upcoming week.

---

### **Is It Lunch Time Yet?**

Last week, Metro's EAT SHOP PLAY campaign was busy supporting local eateries impacted by construction activity in Inglewood, Little Tokyo and the Wilshire area. In each rail construction project-area, Metro organizes monthly Lunch Meet Up events to encourage the public to support neighborhood restaurants during construction. These lunches offer an alternative way for busy stakeholders and business owners to engage with Metro construction teams in a relaxed social setting. Attendees can ask questions and provide comments about construction, jobs, business assistance and anything else Metro-related. Attendance last week ranged from 25 to 40 people at each Lunch Meet Up and name tags were offered at the check-in tables to facilitate networking among participants. Also, non-Metro employees were entered into a drawing for a chance to win a cash prize scheduled for March 29, 2016. In addition to the three Lunch Meet-Ups last week, a fourth Eat Shop Play restaurant was selected from the Crenshaw area to cater over 100 lunches for Metro's African American Employee Association.

Click links below for video spotlights of last week's EAT SHOP PLAY lunch vendors:

2/24/16 Dulan's Soul Food Kitchen in downtown Inglewood

2/25/16 Brooklyn Deli & Mini Market in Crenshaw

2/26/16 Ebisu Japanese Tavern in Little Tokyo

2/29/16 Prospect Gourmand in Wilshire

---

### **Grand Opening of the Gold Line Foothill Extension Taking Place Tomorrow – Free Rides!**

Tomorrow, Saturday, March 5, 2016 marks the day many commuters have been excitedly waiting for: The Gold Line Foothill Extension to Azusa begins full service to the public. To help celebrate this opening and showcase this great new service along the San Gabriel Valley, rides along the entire Metro Gold Line will be free of charge from 12:00 p.m. until Midnight. There will be special activities and family fun station parties including live music, local business and food trucks on site at the following stations: Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte/City of Hope, Irwindale and Azusa Downtown. I would like to thank the City officials and communities surrounding these stations for their support of these station celebrations. Please note, although the Gold Line will be operating a regular Saturday morning service schedule, the brand new 11.5-mile Gold Line Foothill Extension will not begin operation until 12:00 p.m.

For more information on tomorrow's celebrations including addresses of each celebrating station, please click [here](#).

---

## CicLAvia Returns to the San Fernando Valley this Weekend

This Sunday, CicLAvia returns to the San Fernando Valley with a route spanning from Panorama City to Pacoima, bringing the car-free experience to the North East Valley for the first time. Open Street events like CicLAvia temporarily close streets to automobile traffic and open them for people to enjoy a car free day using foot, pedals and everything in between. Visit Metro staff who will be on hand at the Panorama City Hub to provide information about Metro Active Transportation projects and answer general questions from the public. The festivities begin at 9:00 a.m. and wrap up at 4:00 p.m. For a route map and more information, please click [here](#).

---

## Procurement Postings

### CNG Fuel Tank Replacement for Bus series 7600 and 5300 (IFB)

Metro will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure CNG fuel tanks. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Wednesday, March 9, 2016 through Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

This procurement is for the purchase of replacement CNG Fuel Tanks for the NABI bus series 7600 and balance of the New Flyer, series 5300 Metro bus fleet.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Tanya Allen, Procurement Planning Administrator at (213) 922-1018.

### Electric Cooling Fan Systems (IFB)

Metro will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure electric cooling fan systems. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, March 7, 2016 through Thursday, July 29, 2016.

The electric cooling fan systems controls the communication protocol and independently controls the speed of each fan to maintain optimal engine and transmission operating temperature.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Tanya Allen, Procurement Planning Administrator at (213) 922-1018.

---

## Construction Notices – Blue Line, I-5

Caltrans Interstate 5: [All construction updates](#)

---

*“Rediscover Gold”*

*~ Metro*

---



**Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority**

**1 Gateway Plaza, 25th  
Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 922-6000**

**[metro.net](http://metro.net)**

[Press Room](#) | [Projects & Programs](#) | [Meeting Agendas](#) | [Riding Metro](#) | [Metro Library](#)