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In this Issue:

Multiple Agency Exchange Program Comes to Los Angeles
Taking The Plan to Ease Traffic to the Public
Metro's Business Interruption Fund Awards Grants in Little Tokyo
City of Los Angeles Principal's Summit Meeting
Universal City Pedestrian Bridge Officially Opens
NTSB Chairman Christopher Hart Visits Metro
2016 Sustainability Construction Forum, Tours, and Awards Dinner
KPCC AirTalk with Larry Mantle: Discussing the Potential Ballot Measure
Community Updates on Metro Gold Line Eastside Corridor Phase 2
Procurement Postings
Construction Notices – Regional Connector, I-5

Multiple Agency Exchange Program Comes to Los Angeles

All this week, Metro hosted representatives from MARTA of Atlanta, RTD of Denver, and DART of Dallas for the Multiple Agency Exchange (MAX) program. I was glad to have Metro Vice Chair and City of Duarte Councilmember John Fasana join me in welcoming and providing remarks to the MAX group on their first day here at Metro. I would like to thank the MAX group for their interest in learning from Metro about Los Angeles County transportation and Metro's plans on reducing congestion by creating a balanced transportation system. I believe in the importance of investing in our employees and the MAX program is another way to do that by building partnerships and learning from other transportation agencies from across the country. I look forward to the continued success of this program. Furthermore, I would like to thank our various Metro representatives for taking the opportunity to both learn and teach valuable industry lessons and best practices so that we can all grow and improve. For a photo of the MAX group at last night's closing dinner, please click [here](#).

Taking The Plan to Ease Traffic to the Public

This week we began our community meetings to share our Plan to Ease Traffic with the public and get their input. Our Chief Communications Officer Pauletta Tonilas presented at the first meeting held in Agoura Hills and I presented in El Monte last night. There were about 60 people combined at these meetings where they had an opportunity to learn about the plan, why we are pursuing it now and the process and timing for moving forward.

Participants had an opportunity to vote electronically on a series of questions and, at both of the meetings this week, more than 70% said they would vote for the ballot measure if the election were today. Participants also took the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts at information stations around the room, on computers that were available to them, on written comment cards and with staff. KABC radio and the Los Angeles News Group were at the meeting last night in El Monte. Eight more community meetings are scheduled throughout the month in other areas of the County and will conclude on April 30 with a virtual meeting online. Input received from the meetings about The Plan and throughout this process will be summarized and shared with the Metro Board of Directors in June when we return with an updated staff recommendation.

For a list of upcoming community meetings on the Plan to Ease Traffic, please visit our Metro page: <http://theplan.metro.net/>

Metro's Business Interruption Fund Awards Grants in Little Tokyo

Yesterday, I joined Metro Chair and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Metro Board Member and Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, and Metro Board Member and Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich to present a Business Interruption Fund (BIF) grant check to Yuko and Glen Koach, the owners of KC Stylist located in the Little Tokyo area. KC Stylist is a beauty school and salon which specializes in hair care and cosmetics. Keeping with Metro's commitment to support small businesses during transit rail construction, the first series of BIF grants have been awarded to "mom and pop" businesses in the Little Tokyo area that are directly impacted by construction of the Regional Connector Transit Rail Project.

The BIF check presentation also commemorated Metro's achievement of more than \$2.5 Million of BIF grant awards to qualifying businesses. The BIF is a pilot program to provide financial assistance to "mom and pop" businesses directly impacted by transit rail construction along the Crenshaw/LAX line, Phase I of the Purple Line Extension and the Little Tokyo area and 2nd/Broadway segment of the Regional Connector Transit Project.

To learn more about Metro's BIF, please click [here](#). For the full story on the check presentation as posted on The Source, please click [here](#).

City of Los Angeles Principal's Summit Meeting

Yesterday, I held my quarterly meeting with the City of Los Angeles Department Principals to strengthen our working relationships with city departments on our major construction projects. The topics discussed included a status of the projects currently under construction and an update on resources within each city department to help expedite Metro projects. I also gave a brief overview of the Potential Ballot Measure and an update on the numerous meetings being conducted throughout LA County to inform individuals on the contents of the draft expenditure plan and solicit feedback.

Universal City Pedestrian Bridge Officially Opens

Also yesterday, Metro officially opened the Universal City Pedestrian Bridge for our customers. The \$29 million bridge, which connects the Universal City Red Line Station to Universal Studios, was opened on-time on Thursday, April 7, 2016 to coincide with the opening of Universal Studio's Wizarding World of Harry Potter. This project has been years in the making and provides a safer way for our passengers to cross over to Universal City from our system. The bridge also helps ease traffic on Lankershim Boulevard by eliminating pedestrian crossings on the busy thoroughfare. I would personally like to thank the construction team lead by Tim Lindholm, Milind Joshi, and Brad Owen, our contractor Griffith Company and our design partners Miyamoto, Gruen, and Rios Clementi Hale for such a fantastic achievement. I would also like to thank NBC/Universal, our partners on this project. Photos of the bridge can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

NTSB Chairman Christopher Hart Visits Metro

On Wednesday, I was pleased to host the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chairman Christopher Hart during a recent visit to Los Angeles. We held a meet and greet over breakfast with some of our Metro Senior Leadership team and got into some great conversation. Senior Leadership Team members and I provided an overview of our agency, informed him of the many important projects we have going on, provided information on safety programs and the safety culture we live here at Metro. The Chairman continued the day with a driving tour of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project. I would like to thank the Chairman for taking the time to meet with us, exchange ideas and important dialogue and understand Metro's full commitment to safety and security being priority #1. I

also thank Chief Communications Officer Pauletta Tonilas for organizing this visit.

2016 Sustainability Construction Forum, Tours, and Awards Dinner

Earlier this week, the Los Angeles Sustainability Coalition (LASC) partnered with Metro to host 2016 Sustainable Infrastructures; The Next Generation Forum and Tours, here at Gateway Metro headquarters. I participated in this forum on Tuesday afternoon by joining Caltrans Director and Metro Board Member Carrie Bowen, Metrolink CEO Art Leahy, High Speed Rail Authority Regional Director Michelle Boehm, OCTA CEO Darrell Johnson, and Deputy Executive Director of the Los Angeles World Airports Cynthia Guidry for the “California Largest Transit Agencies Presentation” panel. We discussed in that panel our respective sustainability efforts, wherein I specifically emphasized the need for both financial and human capital sustainability as necessary ingredients to grow and maintain our transportation system.

Deborah Flynt, Executive Director of Los Angeles World Airports and Michael Melaniphy, CEO and President of the American Public Transportation Association were present for the LASC Awards reception that evening at the City Club Los Angeles, at which my co-panelists and I received awards on behalf of our agencies for sustainability excellence. It is an honor to receive this award on behalf of our agency. I congratulate Metro staff for ensuring forward and innovative thinking in the sustainability space. Our employees are our greatest assets and I am committed to ensure our organizational sustainability in that context.

Also, Dr. Joshua Shank of Metro’s Office of Extraordinary Innovation and Dr. Cris B. Liban of our Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Department participated in separate earlier workshops during the LASC Summit to discuss Metro’s P3 vision and holistic environmental and sustainability visions, respectively.

KPCC AirTalk with Larry Mantle: Discussing the Potential Ballot Measure

As part of our continued outreach to inform and educate the public on our potential ballot measure, I visited the 89.3 KPCC studios to be a guest on AirTalk with Larry Mantle. Mantle led a measured conversation of the proposed ballot measure and I made sure my responses hit all the key features and benefits of the proposals discussed. After a few minutes of discussion with Mantle, the phone lines were opened and listener questions allowed me to further expand on details that voters may take into consideration if a measure is placed on the November ballot. To listen to the complete recorded broadcast posted on the KPCC website, please click [here](#).

Community Updates on Metro Gold Line Eastside Corridor Phase 2

Last week, Metro held four community meetings to update the public and receive input on the Metro Gold Line Eastside Corridor Phase 2. These meetings were held as a part of the Board directed Technical Study to address comments from Cooperating Agencies and to identify a new north-south connection to Washington Boulevard.

Over 325 people attended the meetings held in Whittier, East Los Angeles, Montebello and South El Monte. Meeting attendees learned about refinements to the SR-60 Alternative being evaluated to address comments from Cooperating Agencies and three route concepts being explored for the Washington Boulevard connection – Arizona Avenue (grade to be determined), Atlantic Boulevard (grade to be determined), and an underground segment along Garfield Avenue. After an Open House session, Metro presented an update on the project, followed by interactive breakout sessions where attendees were able to share their thoughts and ask questions. A wide range of comments were received including support expressed for each of the alignments and, in some cases, both. Attendees

also provided suggestions about how to better serve communities.

Elected officials attending the meetings included: Whittier Mayor and Washington Coalition lead Fernando Dutra, and Council Members Owen Newcomer and Cathy Warner; Montebello Mayor Pro Tem Vivian Romero and Council Member Vanessa Delgado; Monterey Park Council Member Teresa Real-Sebastian; South El Monte Mayor Luis A. Aguinaga and Council Member Joseph Gonzales who leads the SR-60 Coalition. Also in attendance were representatives for County Supervisor and Metro Director Hilda Solis, US Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, US Congresswoman Lucile Roybal-Allard, US Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, State Senator Tony Mendoza, State Senator Ed Hernandez, State Assembly Member Cristina Garcia, as well as the cities of Commerce and Pico Rivera.

The meetings were covered by several publications including the Whittier Daily News, Eastern Publication Group, San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Pasadena Star News and KPCC. As the Study progresses, additional meetings will be held to keep the public informed and receive input. Staff will return to the Metro Board of Directors in May with recommendations on a path forward for the Washington Boulevard alternatives and to provide an update on the technical work and comments received at these meetings and from other stakeholders.

Procurement Postings

Construction Management Support Services for Metro Rail Projects (RFP) Small Business Prime
Metro released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to procure Construction Management Support Services (CMSS) for Metro Rail projects. **The solicitation is open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, April 8, 2016 through Friday, July 15, 2016.

Metro seeks to retain a Consultant for various classifications for Construction Management on multiple rail projects. The Consultant shall provide support services for Metro's construction staff necessary to complete the contract work as indicated in the Scope of Work. The Consultant shall develop a work plan and assist Metro staff's coordination on site work activities.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Josie Mellen, Contract Administrator at (213) 922-1105.

Metro Blue Line First/Last Mile Plan (RFP)

Metro will release a Request for Proposals to procure services for the development of a Blue Line First/Last Mile Plan. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Wednesday, April 13, 2016 through Monday, July 18, 2016.

The purpose of this procurement is to develop a Blue Line First/Last Mile Plan that will include pathway maps for all twenty-two Metro Blue Line stations and a community engagement process to recommend interventions and priorities.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Sonja Gettel, Senior Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-7558.

Construction Notices – Regional Connector, I-5

Regional Connector Transit Project: Full Closure of 2nd Street in Little Tokyo Between San Pedro and Central Avenue

- Regional Connect Constructors (RCC) will install a 2" water pipe line across 2nd street between San Pedro St. and Central Ave to support the on-going grouting efforts.
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- Work will consist of removing pavement, excavating, installing and welding water lines, backfilling, and restoring the street with pavement.
- Work is slated to take place on Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times. Local access to the Sho Tokyo Joe's and Brunswig parking lots will be available at 2nd Street and Central Avenue.

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

“The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.”
~B.B. King



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