Metro Directors Take a Ride on NoHo to Pasadena Express, 501 Line

Yesterday, Metro Board Member and City of Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian and Metro Board Member and Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian took an official ride on the 501 Line - NoHo To Pasadena Express, Metro’s newest express service connecting the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys via State Route 134 carpool lanes. The Directors were joined by Metro Executive Director of Transportation Bob Holland, Vice Mayor for the City of Burbank Jess Talamantes and representatives from Valley service councils and Bob Hope Airport, among others. Officials greeted passengers and promoted destinations along the route. The 501 provides a fast, frequent and reliable transit alternative that completely bypasses Downtown Los Angeles.

The line completed its first official month of revenue service on Friday, April 1, and Metro estimates 500 riders are now using the service per day. Metro will continue to market the service proactively during the six month pilot period. The Express bus sped officials and Metro riders from North Hollywood to Pasadena in approximately 45 minutes, a notable travel time improvement compared with making the same trip via the Metro Red Line and Gold Lines as commuters had to do prior to the 501 option. I thank the Directors for their help in promoting this new and important service and look forward to seeing this line thrive.

Fans Exit the Kobe Station: Kobe Exits the NBA

There was plenty of activity with our professional teams in Los Angeles this week and I think a lot of you may have spent your Wednesday evening watching Lakers legend Kobe Bryant say farewell to the NBA and fans. He went out with a bang scoring 60 points leading to a fourth quarter comeback against the Utah Jazz. In honor of Kobe Bryant and the millions of fans that have ridden Metro to the Staples Center to see him lead the Lakers over the past 20 years, Metro re-named the Pico Station of the Metro Blue/Expo Line as the Kobe Station – just for the day. Kobe’s final game at Staples Center was a sell-out and taking the Metro Blue/Expo Line and exiting at the Kobe Station was the perfect way to avoid traffic and parking.

Chinese Delegation Visits for a Briefing

On Tuesday, we hosted a delegation of business and transportation leaders from the People’s Republic of China. The meeting was requested by the Chinese Consulate as an outgrowth of the Industry Forum we hosted in March. The meeting was spearheaded by Eric Eide, Director of LA

Honored as CEO Who "Gets It" by National Safety Council

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Mayor Garcetti’s Office of International Trade. I was pleased to provide an overview of this agency and our future direction. Joining me was Metro Chief Innovation Officer Joshua Schank who discussed our P3 efforts and unsolicited proposal initiative, Metro Executive Director of Vendor/Contract Management Ivan Page who provided an overview of our procurement policies and procedures, and Metro Deputy Executive Director for Project Management & Construction Bryan Pennington who discussed our shovel ready projects. Guests included representatives from the China Railway Group, Bank of China, Beijing National Railway, China Chamber of Commerce, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, which is the largest bank in the world. The Delegation went away impressed with our agency’s willingness to consider unsolicited proposals and informed us that they will be following up with our Procurement Department. It was a very productive meeting.

It’s Time for Dodger Baseball

Also on Tuesday, your Los Angeles Dodgers returned to Chavez Ravine for a fresh new start to their 2016 Major League Baseball season. Although the outcome was not as favorable as the Chicago Cubs opening day, we all have a long season ahead of us. With that, Metro returns with the Dodger Stadium Express (DSE) to help ease traffic to and from games, and provide ballgame fans a stress-free and convenient alternative to driving in. Also, you will not have to drive your own car to see and experience the newly established, and well-deserved, Vin Scully Avenue as this is the standard route for DSE. Don’t forget about the additional stop at Broadway and Cesar Chavez - you can have dinner in Chinatown then catch the DSE there.

To get an idea of the popularity and convenience of the DSE here are some numbers from opening day: We transported a total of 2,797 passengers inbound and 2,728 passengers outbound for the Union Station service. We used a total of 20 buses for the inbound trips and 25 buses for the outbound. For the South Bay service, a total of 267 passengers were transported in and out, with a total of 10 buses used both inbound and outbound.

Honored as CEO Who “Gets It” by National Safety Council

On Monday, we were proud to be recognized by President and CEO of the National Safety Council (NSC) Deborah A.P. Hersman as one of seven Chief Executive Officers of major corporations or public agencies who "Get It." This past January, NCS informed us of this honor and published their list of 2016 CEOs Who "Get It" in the February 2016 issue of Safety+Health Magazine. This award is presented annually to leaders who demonstrate continued and outstanding dedication to employee safety and well-being both on and off the job. The NSC noted our commitment from day one that LA Metro would embark on an ambitious training initiative involving the direct, regular delivery of safety training to more than 5,000 operating employees within a 12 month period, announcement that safety and security is LA Metro’s top priority and that we had 10 Metro employees trained to be defensive driving course instructors within 30 days of beginning our leadership administration at LA Metro. We must remember that we are in the service business and that all of our customers deserve to be in a safe environment.

Meeting with One LA on our Plan to Ease Traffic

On Sunday, I attended a meeting with about 100 people hosted by One LA that included representatives from churches, synagogues and other community organizations stretching from Pacoima to South Los Angeles. Through their Transit/Housing/Jobs working group, they are advocating for greater access to transit, job creation and affordable housing near transit lines and stations. Individuals shared their personal experiences about these issues with particular focus on the importance of the Sepulveda Pass project, truck lanes on key freeways, and concerns about rising rent costs from residents near new transit investments.
These were powerful stories and I was pleased to be able to share a bit about my background and how our Plan to Ease Traffic is addressing these issues, will transform and connect greater Los Angeles and leave an infrastructure inheritance for future generations. I also discussed the opportunities for some projects to be accelerated through P3 opportunities. This group is committed to continue working on these issues and would like to meet with us again in the future.

Metro Continues to Take The Plan to Ease Traffic to the Public

This week we continued our community meetings to share our Plan to Ease Traffic with the public and get their input. Metro Deputy CEO Stephanie Wiggins presented on Monday in Van Nuys and I presented in Carson last night. About 140 people attended our meetings this week 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. 72% of the people in Van Nuys and 69% in Carson 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.

Remaining meetings scheduled through April will be held in Palmdale (4/19), West Hollywood (4/21), Downtown LA (4/23), Paramount (4/26) and South LA (4/28) before concluding with our virtual online meeting on April 30. In addition to these meetings, we are receiving input by mail, email, through our website, social media and have received nearly 550 comments to date. All the input received throughout this process will be summarized and shared with the Metro Board of Directors in June when we return with an updated staff recommendation.

Procurement Postings

Pavement Replacement at Division 8 (IFB)
Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure a contractor for the completion of Pavement Replacement at Division 8. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, April 15, 2016 through Tuesday, June 7, 2016.

Metro seeks a contractor to remove the existing asphalt that has deteriorated with cracks and settlements due to the high volume of traffic and heavy equipment. The contractor will replace the asphalt with a new compacted subbase and continuously reinforced concrete pavement and is also to provide testing service on the subbase and concrete.

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

Co-Trustee Custodial Services for Post Employment Benefits Trust (RFP)
Metro will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure Custodial Services for Post Employment Benefits Trust. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, April 18, 2016 through Monday, May 16, 2016.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) is seeking Co-Trustee/custodial services for an IRS Section 115 Trust established for Other Post Employment Benefits (Trust). The irrevocable Trust currently has assets of roughly $290 million. The Trust is maintained to fund post-employment benefits (other than pension benefits), such as medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and similar benefits, offered by LACMTA to retirees and their beneficiaries in accordance with LACMTA’ policies and/or applicable collective bargaining agreements. Funds in the Trust Fund that are not needed for benefit payments may be invested in diversified asset classes including but not limited to equities, fixed income and other asset classes approved by the Trust’s Investment Advisory Committee.
Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by James A. Nolan, Sr. Contracts Administrator at (213) 922-7312.

4X4 Super-Duty Trucks with Hi-Rail Gear (IFB)
Metro will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure 4X4 Super-Duty Trucks with Hi-Rail Gear. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Tuesday, April 19, 2016 through Monday, July 25, 2016.

This procurement is for the purchase of six (6) 4X4 super duty pickup trucks equipped with hi rail gear for the expansion of vehicles in the current fleet to support rail operations on Metro’s Gold and Expo light rail lines.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Greg Baker, Contract Administrator at (213) 922-7577.

Landscape & Irrigation Maintenance Services for Gold Line Foothill Extension Facilities (IFB)
Metro will release an Invitation for Bid (IFB) to procure landscape and irrigation maintenance services throughout Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension facilities.

Landscape and Irrigation maintenance services are needed for the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension which consists of 11 miles of Right of Way (ROW), six (6) passenger stations, ten (10) traction power sub-stations (TPSS) and one (1) Operations and Maintenance Yard. The facilities also include four (4) parking structures and one (1) parking lot. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Tuesday, April 19, 2016 through Thursday, July 28, 2016.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Rommel Hilario, Senior Contract Administrator at (213) 922-4654.

Joint Development “On Call” Contract for Urban Design/Architectural Consultants (RFP) - Small Business Prime
Metro will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure architectural and engineering (A&E) services to assist with site planning and feasibility and design review for potential joint development projects on Metro-owned properties. This solicitation is open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, April 22, 2016 through Wednesday, July 20, 2016.

This RFP is to develop an “on call” contract with a qualified Contractor to provide urban and architectural design professional services as the need arises.

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.

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**Construction Notices – Pershing Square Station, Purple Line Extension, I-5**

Metro Pershing Square Escalator Replacement Project: **Closure of 4th & Hill Street Entrance and Plaza** – Through January 2017
- Escalators at the NE portal of Metro Pershing Square Station at 4th & Hill Street will be replaced
- This work will coincide with construction of a mixed-use development planned above and adjacent to the station entrance
- The Pershing Square NE station entrance will be closed from Monday, April 18, 2016 through January 2017
- For more information please click the underlined link above for the official Metro advisory.

Metro Purple Line Extension Project: **Traffic Switch for Pile Installation** – South Side of Wilshire Boulevard
- Worksite traffic control will be needed for the beginning of piling operations on the south side of
Wilshire Boulevard
• Traffic switch will include K-rail with fencing on the south side of Wilshire between Detroit and Mansfield streets and restriping of the street – traffic will be reduced to two lanes in each direction on Wilshire.
• Work will begin Friday, April 15 at 8:00 p.m. and conclude Monday, April 18 at 6:00 a.m.
• For more information please click the underlined link above for the Metro construction notice page.

Caltrans Interstate 5: All construction updates

“Good teams become great ones when the members trust each other enough to surrender the ‘me’ for the ‘we’”
~Phil Jackson