

# CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

Phillip A. Washington  
Chief Executive Officer

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## **Week 4 of Community Meetings on Metro's Plan to Ease Traffic**

As of yesterday, Metro has completed 9 of our 10 public community meetings sharing the Metro Plan to Ease Traffic with the public. This past Saturday, we held a Community Meeting on our Plan to Ease Traffic here in the Board Room. There were 82 members of the public in attendance and during our electronic polling, 81% indicated they would vote for the ballot measure if the election were today. We continued the meetings during the week on Tuesday where Deputy CEO Stephanie Wiggins presented in Paramount and on Thursday where I presented in South Los Angeles with a meeting at the Rita Walters Learning Complex. Roughly 54 members of the public attended the meeting in Paramount where 69% said they would vote for the ballot measure and nearly 28 people attended the Los Angeles meeting where 65% indicated they would support the ballot measure.

Our official community meetings conclude tomorrow Saturday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m. with our Virtual Online Community Meeting. Visitors will see a short presentation in either Spanish or English and then be asked to vote just as they have in our previous community meetings. They will also have a chance to ask questions of staff in our virtual exhibit halls. Access to this meeting can be found by going to our website <http://theplan.metro.net/> and clicking on the registration link located under the April 30 meeting header.

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## **Caltrans Breaks Ground on I-10 HOV Construction Project**

Earlier today, Metro Vice Chair and Duarte City Councilmember John Fasana attended a Caltrans groundbreaking ceremony for the I-10 HOV lane construction project. The \$195.25 million project is the final of three that, upon completion, will offer one continuous HOV lane from downtown Los Angeles to San Bernardino County. The I-10 HOV project will increase freeway capacity, reduce congestion by encouraging carpooling, reduce energy consumption and improve air quality and traffic flow. It is expected to open 2021. The funding for this project is a mix of Metro controlled State STIP and Federal CMAQ dollars, and also State programmed State Highway Operations and Protection

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Program.

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### **Cellular Service in the Subway Phase One: Now Live**

Yesterday, at our April Board of Directors Meeting, I announced that we are officially live on-the-air with Verizon cellular services in our subway tunnel for phase one from Union Station to 7<sup>th</sup> St/Metro Center Station. Sprint and T-Mobile also signed agreements for cellular coverage and work is progressing to get both of those carriers on the air in the next 2-3 months. Infrastructure work for the antenna system in the tunnels is progressing for the second phase of the subway cellular service which will extend coverage to Wilshire-Western in the fall of this year, and remaining phases that will extend the coverage to North Hollywood are slated to be operational in fall 2017. For a complete article as posted on The Source, please click [here](#).

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### **Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day**

Also yesterday, I welcomed a group of young boys and girls from grades 3 through 12 who accompanied their parents to work for "Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day." This year is the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the event which provides an opportunity as a stepping stone to continue the work of educating and empowering the youth of America. This is a unique experience for kids to get a chance to see what their parents do and where they go every day for work. The theme for this year is entitled "Sparking AHA! Moments" and represents the greatness of imagination and new ideas.

Staff planned special activities including a presentation with Metro's bomb sniffing dog, the bus simulator, Bus Operations Control (BOC), tours of Union Station, Chinatown Station and Division 13. I am very proud to inform that at the end of the day, Metro Customer Relations staff asked the kids what they learned today and a large majority replied with: Don't play on or around railroad tracks and Metro is important in the community. Also, two things they liked the most was touring BOC and Command Center, and experiencing the simulator at Little Tokyo Station.

For pictures, click [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). Thank you to those volunteer coordinators who helped to organize this special day for the kids.

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### **Harriet Begins Tunneling Beneath Crenshaw Boulevard**

On Wednesday morning, Harriet, the tunnel boring machine (TBM) on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project, began digging the first of two, mile-long twin tunnels underneath Crenshaw Boulevard. The start of tunneling – or mining – marks the first time Metro has had an active TBM on a project since the Gold Line Eastside Extension project finished construction in 2008. Named after Harriet Tubman, the pioneering abolitionist, Harriet is tasked with boring the tunnels that will connect the three underground stations of the Crenshaw/LAX Line: Expo/Crenshaw, Martin Luther King Jr. and Leimert Park. Harriet is expected to finish her monumental task in approximately 15 months.

Also, on a separate project but TBM-related, if you have not noticed – take a look outside our south-facing windows here at Gateway for a glimpse of the TBM that will be working on the Regional Connector Project here in Downtown. Across the 101 Freeway, under the blue coverings is the TBM and equipment.

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### **UCLA's Public Transit Conference**

Also on Wednesday, I participated in UCLA's Public Transit Conference held at the California

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Endowment. I sat on a panel with Kurt Luhrsen of Harris County MTA and Buz Paaswell of City College of New York to discuss How Transit Agencies can Survive and Thrive in a Brave New World. I focused on the potential ballot measure plan and shared some of the exciting and necessary projects Metro will pursue to transform transportation in Los Angeles County. The keynote speaker of the event was our new Chief Planning Officer, Therese McMillan. Therese discussed transformation as it relates to society, individuals and the transit industry. She pointed out that innovation, safety and trust are important aspects of dealing with growing transit demands and serving our customers.

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### **Anti-Sexual Harassment Campaign and Denim Day 2016**

Also on Wednesday, Metro Deputy CEO Stephanie Wiggins participated in the Denim Day Press Conference at Los Angeles City Hall with Los Angeles City Councilmember and Metro Board Member Mike Bonin, LA Police Chief Charlie Beck and Peace Over Violence and Denim Day Founder Patti Giggans. Our Deputy CEO stressed that Metro has a ground-breaking anti sexual harassment campaign called "It's Off Limits" that has been successful in reducing unwanted comments, touching and exposure on Metro's bus and rail system from a reported 22% down to 18%.

Metro employee's agency-wide participated in Denim Day by dressing accordingly to support the message that "There is never an invitation to rape." Denim Day is in its 17<sup>th</sup> year after beginning in Los Angeles and now it is an international observance. Denim Day received its name from a case in Italy in which a rapist had his conviction reversed on appeal in part because the victim wore tight denim jeans.

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### **Look, Listen and Stay Alive Safety Campaign**

On Tuesday, Metro Executive Director, Rail Strategic Planning – Operations Bruce Shelburne, Metro Interim Director of Community Relations Transit Safety Program Jennifer Arndt, Metro Manager of Rail System Safety Abdul K. Zohbi, and Metro Community Relations Manager Transit Safety Program Stacy Yamato-Jasmin convened in Santa Monica at the 26<sup>th</sup> St/Bergamot Station to address the media on rail safety around the brand new portion of the Metro Expo Line to Santa Monica. With the May 20 Grand Opening date approaching, Metro has increased its train operations during pre-revenue service from Culver City to Santa Monica. Metro is stressing the rail line's safety features along the tracks and reminding motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians to always "Look, Listen and Stay Alive" before crossing railroad tracks.

The safety and rail staff discussed safety systems that include traffic signals, vehicle crossing gates, flashing warning lights, pedestrian crossing gates, delineators, signs and curb reflectors. Metro Safety Ambassadors are stationed at key locations to assist and observe the public. Metro Transit Safety Programs began these safety outreach program months ago for the Expo Line's second phase, an effort which included safety programs and presentations to the community. These efforts will continue beyond opening day as well.

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### **Metro Archival Materials Featured in New York Transit Museum's Etiquette Poster Exhibition**

Metro's Transportation Research Library & Archive contributed archival materials to the New York Transit Museum's newest exhibition, "Transit Etiquette or: How I Learned to Stop Spitting and Step Aside in 25 Languages." Located in New York City's Grand Central Terminal, the exhibition explores the creative and engaging visuals and broad scope of humor that transit agencies in the U.S. and abroad have used to persuade and scold passengers into better behavior. It includes etiquette campaign posters and videos from Barcelona, Brussels, Chicago, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Philadelphia, Taipei, Tokyo, and more.

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Metro collection items included the recent campaign featuring a wrestler with the line, "Let the other

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superheroes wrestle with traffic," a 1995 poster warning riders of the \$250 fine for eating and drinking on Metro trains, and a 1992 Spanish-language video campaign, "Siempre Mira y Escucha" featuring Travis the Safety Owl. The exhibition opened March 12 and will run through July, 2016. Related to this exhibit, recently, Metro Executive Officer of Systems Security and Law Enforcement Alex Wiggins spoke with KPCC regarding "seat hogs" and the agency's plan to research ways to combat this problem and improve the rider experience.

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### **Metro at Rail Safety Conference Seminar and Expo**

Last week, Metro attended the International Rail Safety Conference and Expo in Orlando, Florida. The purpose of the seminar was to bring together rail safety experts, researchers, suppliers and professionals in an educational environment. Metro Transit Safety Programs (TSP) presented on their grass roots approach to creating a safety culture including an overview of the programs offered to keep the communities engaged. Metro Corporate Safety presented on the Sub-Terrain Rail system. There were presenters from across the country as well as the UK, France and Asia. Attending seminars like these keeps in line with Safety and Security as our #1 priority. I want to thank the representatives from Metro TSP Jordan Vann, Jesse Sanchez, Medford Auguste and Corporate Safety representative Kay Koopman-Glass for attending this conference and bringing back with them valuable information and ideas to share with us.

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### **EAT SHOP PLAY Quarterly Drawings**

Winners have been selected for this quarter's EAT SHOP PLAY quarterly drawings. Cash prizes from \$250 to \$1,000 are awarded to winners from a pool of customers who have submitted receipts from participating businesses from each of the EAT SHOP PLAY projects: Crenshaw/LAX (C/LAX), Regional Connector (RC) and Purple Line Extension (PLE). The drawings are another way that Metro helps to promote impacted businesses that are located along Metro's active rail/subway construction projects. Congratulations to the winners.

Metro appreciates quarterly drawing prize sponsors from C/LAX Project: Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Mall, Hog Parts Pros, GS Sports Bar, PV Jobs and Stantec; from Regional Connector: Skanska & Traylor and Regional Connector Constructors; and from PLE: Stantec, Jacobs, and VCI Construction.

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### **Telephone Town Hall Meetings Begin Next Week**

This week, we began advertising our upcoming Telephone Town Hall Meetings inviting the public to join in the conversation, or just listen-in, to live discussions with Metro Board Members, Metro Senior Leadership Staff and myself, regarding our Potential Ballot Measure and Draft Expenditure Plan. This will be a very convenient and unique opportunity for Metro Board Members to interact with their constituents, tout Metro's progress, solicit feedback and answer questions about Metro's Plan to Ease Traffic. Thirty-thousand residents in each of Metro's 13 director geographic areas will be called at random through an automated system and invited to participate in these telephone forums. These Telephone Town Hall Meetings will begin next week, Wednesday, May 4 with Metro Chair Mark Ridley-Thomas and will continue on with other Metro Board members and Metro staff on select dates through Wednesday, May 18.

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## Procurement Postings

### Removal and Disposal of Hazardous Waste and Universal Waste (RFP) – Small Business Prime

Metro will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide professional services to handle, remove, analyze, transport and dispose of hazardous waste and universal waste as outlined in the Statement of Work. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, May 2, 2016 through Thursday, July 21, 2016.

The Contractor shall be required to remove and transport Metro's hazardous waste and universal waste by a licensed hazardous waste transporter to a fully permitted Treatment, Storage and Disposal facility.

**This solicitation is open to Certified Small Businesses Only.** SBEs responding to this solicitation must be SBE certified with Metro in the appropriate NAICS codes at the time the proposal is submitted.

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

### Skid-Steer Loader with Trailer (IFB)

Metro will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure a Skid-Steer Loader with Trailer. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Wednesday, May 4, 2016 through Thursday, August 4, 2016.

The purpose of this procurement is for the purchase of one (1) Skid-Steer Loader with Trailer for the replacement of equipment in the current fleet to support Rail Facility Maintenance Operations.

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.

### Engine Oil (IFB)

Metro will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure engine oil. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Tuesday, May 10, 2016 through Friday, October 28, 2016.

This procurement is for the purchase of engine oil which is needed to lubricate the internal mechanisms within the engine. Award of a contract will provide a commitment from the supplier to ensure availability at a fixed, competitive price.

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.

### Engine Dynamometer (IFB)

Metro will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure engine dynamometers. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Thursday, May 5, 2016 through Friday, October 28, 2016.

This procurement is for the purchase of two (2) new engine dynamometers which includes the removal of existing equipment, fabrication and assembly and installation, training and warranty. This equipment will be used to test and break-in of re-built heavy duty engines that operate on diesel, natural gas or other fuels buses.

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.

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## Construction Notices – Blue Line, Purple Line Extension, Regional Connector, I-5

Metro Blue Line: [Bus Shuttles Replace Blue Line Rail Service](#) – Between Slauson and 103<sup>rd</sup> St/Watts Towers Stations

- Stations will be closed for crews to perform preventative maintenance and make improvements to the interlocking, or track crossover point, between Florence and Firestone Stations.
- Bus shuttles will replace Blue Line rail service between Slauson and 103<sup>rd</sup> St/Watts Towers Stations
- The stations will be closed from 9:00 p.m. Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1, close of service
- For more details including maps and visuals of the rail and shuttle service, please click the underlined link above in the title.

Purple Line Extension Project: [Storm Drain Relocation Work](#) – at Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue

- Work crew will begin storm drain relocation work nightly from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Work begins Sunday, May 1 through Friday, May 13.
- For the complete Metro construction advisory please click the underlined link above in the title.

Regional Connector Transit Project: [Full Closure Along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street](#): Between Central Avenue and San Pedro Street

- Work crews will perform grouting operations along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. between Central Avenue and San Pedro Street
- A full closure along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street will be necessary for the early half of the day
- Work will begin and end Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.
- For the complete Metro construction advisory please click the underlined link above in the title.

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

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*“Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.”*  
~John F. Kennedy

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**Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority**

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

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

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