

# CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

Phillip A. Washington  
Chief Executive Officer

Friday, August 26, 2016

## In this Issue

- [U.S. Congresswoman Linda Sanchez Announces TIGER Grant Award](#)
- [Metro and Caltrans Host Public Hearings on SR-138 Draft EIR/EIS](#)
- [Senator Barbara Boxer Visits Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project](#)
- [Storylines: Conversations with Movers and Shakers](#)
- [Rio Hondo College Celebrates 10 Years of Go Rio Transit Pass Program](#)
- [Metro Hosts Consolidated Audit Workshop](#)
- [Regional Connector Unique Mitigations Win Little Tokyo Community Approval](#)
- [Underground Tour at Expo/Crenshaw Station with South LA Pastors](#)
- [FYF Fest This Weekend: Go Metro](#)
- [Procurement Postings](#)
- [Construction Notices](#)

---

### U.S. Congresswoman Linda Sanchez Announces TIGER Grant Award

Yesterday, I joined Metro Chair and City of Duarte Councilmember John Fasana, Metro Vice Chair and Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti and Metro Board Member and City of Lakewood Councilmember Diane DuBois to support the announcement by United States Representative Linda Sanchez that Metro is being awarded a \$15 million USDOT TIGER Grant for the Rosecrans/Marquardt Grade Separation Project. Metro is partnering with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway, the City of Santa Fe Springs, California State Transportation Authority, and California High Speed Rail Authority to grade separate the Rosecrans Avenue and Marquardt Avenue intersection in Los Angeles County. Also in attendance supporting this announcement was Caltrans Director Malcolm Daugherty, Federal Railroad Administration Regional Administrator James Jordan, California High Speed Rail Authority CEO Jeff Morales and officials from BNSF.

This intersection in the city of Santa Fe Springs is rated by the California Public Utilities Commission as the most hazardous grade crossing in the State of California – with over 45,000 vehicles and over 130 trains using this grade crossing daily. This grade separation project will substantially enhance safety and traffic flow, including truck and vehicular circulation, on surface streets - along with improving the efficiency of train movement along this busy corridor.



---

### **Metro and Caltrans Host Public Hearings on SR-138 Draft EIR/EIS**

Yesterday evening, Metro and Caltrans held the first of two public hearings at William J. Fox Field in the city of Lancaster on the environmental impacts for the proposed safety and capacity enhancements for the Northwest 138 Corridor (SR 138). Over 70 people attended last night's meeting to learn about the project and provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/EIS). A second meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, August 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Grace Chapel - 25649 W Ave D, Neenach, CA 93536.

Those unable to attend the public hearing in person tomorrow can participate via a live-stream on Saturday, August 27 at: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/nw138>. There will be a virtual Open House at 9:30 a.m. until the live-webcast of the presentation starts at 10:00 a.m.

State Route 138 extends 36 miles from Interstate 5 to State Route 14, and is situated in the Antelope Valley in the northwest corner of Los Angeles County, just south of the Kern County border. This corridor currently functions as a bypass for people and goods movements, as well as providing critical mobility for the Antelope Valley economy. The Draft EIR/EIS for the Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project is now available for public review and comment through Monday, September 19, 2016. The Draft EIR/EIS is available at [metro.net/nw138](http://metro.net/nw138) and at other public locations along the corridor.

---

### **U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer Visits Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project**

On Wednesday, I joined Metro Chair and City of Duarte Councilmember John Fasana and LA County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Mark Ridley-Thomas in welcoming United States Senator Barbara Boxer to the construction site of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project. Senator Boxer visited the Metro Green Line Aviation/LAX Station to observe some of the work going on there. Construction for this project began in 2014 as a result of Senator Boxer's strong leadership and support. She was very instrumental in helping Metro secure a \$20 million TIGER Grant that supported a \$546 million TIFIA loan for the project. Thanks to the Metro Federal Affairs team who maintained a very productive relationship with Senator Boxer's Office as Metro worked towards obtaining this funding.



---

### **Storylines: Conversations with Movers and Shakers**

Also on Wednesday, I joined CEO of LA World Airports Deborah Flint as a panelist for the first installment of a series called “Storylines: Conversations with SoCal Movers and Shakers.” These public forums by the Milken Institute’s California Center and KPCC will dive deep into Southern California’s regional issues, including transportation, workforce, housing and innovation. Moderated by KPCC’s commuting and mobility reporter Meghan McCarty, the public forum drew a great crowd of about 300 hundred people and held a good conversation for over an hour.

---

### **Rio Hondo College Celebrates 10 Years of Go Rio Transit Pass Program**

Rio Hondo College is celebrating the 10th Anniversary of their Go Rio transit pass program this year and is one of the colleges leading the launch of Metro’s new U-Pass program. By close of business on Wednesday, the Go Rio Transit Pass Program processed 400 U-Pass renewals for returning students and over 700 additional U-Pass TAP stickers totaling 1,100 registrations in just three days. The Go Rio U-Pass program helps move students by granting unlimited access to Metro, Foothill Transit, Norwalk Transit, El Monte Transit, Montebello Bus and LA County Sunshine Shuttle for an entire semester. The U-Pass TAP sticker is placed directly on a student’s ID and functions like a regular TAP card. Students are eager to embrace the new TAP sticker technology and the ease of getting around via a variety of transit options. Our goal is to continue to increase student transit ridership through the implementation of U-Pass programs.

---

### **Metro Hosts Consolidated Audit Workshop**

Lastly on Wednesday, Management Audit Services hosted the Consolidated Audit Kickoff Workshop at Metro Gateway headquarters building. The workshop is held in preparation for the FY16 audits of Measure R Local Return, Prop A and C Local Return, and various Metro funded programs. Approximately 120 representatives from the 88 cities of Los Angeles County and other fare subsidy recipients attended. Metro’s Chief Auditor, Diana Estrada, facilitated the workshop and local programming managers provided background information on the various funding programs and respective guidelines. In addition, the workshop gave attendees a chance to meet representatives from Simpson & Simpson and Vasquez & Co., the two CPA firms conducting the audits, who provided attendees with insight into the audit process, documentation requirements, important audit due dates and lessons learned from the prior year’s audits.

---

## Regional Connector Unique Mitigations Win Little Tokyo Community Approval

The Regional Connector Construction and Community Relations team has been working with Little Tokyo area business and festival leaders to implement project mitigations that support small business and sustain community culture during the period of transit construction. Metro staff has been working in coordination with Little Tokyo's Nisei Week Foundation and the Little Tokyo Community Council's Marketing Team to create "culturally appropriate" signage to leverage project messaging and in recent months, to promote the 76th Nisei Week festivities – a celebration of Japanese culture.

Metro took on the challenge to develop festival messaging while integrating the Metro brand. The designs for varied print and social media marketing promotions as well as "take ones" were shared with Metro's transit users in promotion of festival events during the month of August. The Nisei Week Organizing Committee applauded the marketing plan and the recent full re-opening of 2nd Street in time for the festival's parade. For the first time, Metro was invited to participate, and did so in style, with this 1958 vintage "Coach" featured [here](#) by Toyo Miyatake Photography. The Little Tokyo Koban (Safety) Committee's Chair, Brian Kito is seen waving to the crowd as he joins our staff for a ride. Mr. Kito also is owner of the oldest business in Little Tokyo, Fugetsu-do Confectioners on 1st Street.

Metro's commitment to sustaining Little Tokyo businesses during the period of construction resulted in stakeholder support for the continued closure of 1st Street between Central Avenue and Alameda Street to complete preparation for tunnel boring work. About four additional months would have been required if the closure could not be maintained during the parade week. This correlates to a savings of millions of dollars for the Regional Connector Project. Thank you to the Nisei Week Foundation, the Nisei Week Planning Committee, and the Little Tokyo Community Council's Marketing & Advertising Team for partnering with us to promote area businesses and festival events.



---

## Underground Tour at Expo/Crenshaw Station with South LA Pastors

I did not get a chance to mention that last week, we hosted Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., Pastor of West Angeles Church of God in Christ and his leadership team on an underground tour and site visit of the future Expo/Crenshaw Station on the Crenshaw/LAX Line. For the first time, Bishop Blake and his team had the opportunity to see construction progress first hand. Bishop Blake and I also got a chance to talk to several local community members hired by our contractor to work on the project. Following the tour, we discussed a number of initiatives aimed at supporting economic development, career preparation and local hiring that will benefit the community.

The West Angeles Church of God in Christ is located directly across the street from the Expo Line's Expo/Crenshaw Station and future transfer point to the Crenshaw/LAX Line. During the past two years of construction, the church has been a patient community partner as construction has impacted major

thoroughfares in the area. I appreciate this partnership and look forward to continuing to work with all faith leaders, businesses and the community at large.

---

### **FYF Fest This Weekend: Go Metro**

The Rams are hitting the road to Denver, leaving the Coliseum and surrounding Exposition Park in good hands with FYF Festival. The annual 2-day music festival returns this weekend with another great lineup anticipated to bring a full crowd. Metro will be there to assist festival-goers with getting safely and conveniently to and from the event with enhanced late-night rail service as well. For more details as posted on The Source, please click [here](#).

---

### **Procurement Postings**

There are no procurement postings this week.

---

### **Construction Notices - Patsaouras Plaza, Purple Line Extension, I-5**

Patsaouras Plaza Bus Station Project: [Vignes Street and I-101 On/Off Ramp Weekend Closure](#)

- A full closure of Vignes St. between Ramirez St. and I-101 will be closed Saturday and Sunday, August 27 - 28 between 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Construction crews will be performing necessary work related to the Patsaouras Bus Plaza Station Project.
- Road detours and re-routing will be clearly marked.

Metro Purple Line Extension: [Phase 3 Decking -- Wilshire Boulevard/La Brea Avenue](#)

- Decking closures of Wilshire Blvd, east of La Brea Ave to Highland Ave continue this weekend.
- Closures begin Friday at 8:00 p.m. thru Monday at 6:00a.m.
- Local access for residents and businesses will be maintained.

Caltrans Interstate 5: All Construction Updates [here](#).

---

“An overnight success usually takes about ten years.”

~Anonymous

---

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

You have subscribed to receive Metro information, [edit your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#).  
Your privacy is important to us, please review the [Privacy Policy](#).

© 2016 Metro (LACMTA) One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952  
This email was sent to  
*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

**Bus & Rail Transit information**  
323.GO.METRO (323.466.3876)  
6:30am - 7pm (Monday - Friday)  
8:00am - 4:30pm (Saturday/Sunday)

