In this Issue

- GLAAACC Honors Metro Staff at 24th Annual Economic Awards Dinner
- I-5 North/The Empire Interchange Project: Ribbon Cutting Opens New Elevated Railroad Tracks
- Employees Host Nowruz at Metro
- Crenshaw/LAX Transit Tour with On The Move Riders Club
- Procurement Postings
- Construction Notices

GLAAACC Honors Metro Staff at 24th Annual Economic Awards Dinner

Last night, I joined Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Mark Ridley-Thomas, Inglewood Mayor and Metro Board Member James Butts and members of the Metro Senior Leadership Team at the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC) 24th Annual Economic Awards Dinner where LA Clippers Owner Steve Ballmer served as the keynote speaker. It was great to be there to support both Metro Deputy CEO Stephanie Wiggins and Executive Officer of Diversity and Economic Opportunity Miguel Cabral who received awards for their tremendous contributions to Los Angeles County. Stephanie Wiggins was presented the Transportation Executive of the Year award for the outstanding leadership she exemplifies at the agency, while Miguel Cabral was presented the Small Business Advocate Award recognizing the extraordinary work he does connecting Metro with LA County's small business community. We all enjoyed an evening of celebration in good company and I look forward to our continued sponsorship of GLAAACC.

I-5 North/The Empire Interchange Project: Ribbon Cutting Opens New Elevated Railroad Tracks

On Tuesday, Glendale City Councilmember and Metro Board Member Ara Najarian, Caltrans Distrct 7 Director and Metro Board Member Carrie Bowen and Metro staff joined Metrolink CEO Art Leahy, Caltrans Officials, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) officials, and the City of Burbank to celebrate the completion of an important milestone for the I-5 North/Empire Interchange Project. 2.2-miles of elevated railroad tracks have been officially opened at Buena Vista Street and San Fernando Boulevard and
adjacent to Empire Avenue. The elevated tracks improve rail operations and enhance safety for the community.

This achievement is the result of significant collaboration between the various agencies and cities involved, and is a great example of how effective we can be when we combine forces.

The I-5 North HOV and widening project at Empire Avenue is a $355-million Measure R investment to relieve major regional traffic congestion, improve traffic flow, provide better access to the Hollywood Burbank Airport and surrounding communities, and improve the economy in this corridor. Construction of the I-5 North Project/Empire Interchange Project began in 2014 and is expected to be completed in 2019.

Projects like the I-5 improvements demonstrate our commitment to regional multi-modal mobility through our investments in highway projects. Metro’s Highway Program continues to improve the existing transportation infrastructure for future generations to come. I want to thank Director Najarian for his commitment to improving safety for the community by serving as an early champion of this project.

For a video and photos from the ribbon cutting ceremony as posted on The Source, please click here.

Employees Host Nowruz at Metro

I am proud of the diversity we display here at Metro – it is true reflection of the communities we serve. On Monday, a group of Metro employees hosted the second annual “Nowruz at Metro” gathering to celebrate “Nowruz”, the Iranian New Year and Spring equinox. Metro colleagues had an opportunity to learn about the culture, heritage, and holiday which is also celebrated in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kurdistan, Uzbekistan, Kashmir, Kyrgyzstan, and a few other countries. Nowruz usually falls on March 19, 20, or 21. This year, it was on Monday, March 20.

A traditional “Haft Seen” display was set up on the 3rd floor at Gateway for observation of the seven items that represent a special symbol for the New Year. In addition to celebrating the New Year, this is a broader effort to celebrate diversity and to foster greater understanding of Iranian American culture. More information about this holiday can be found here.
Crenshaw/LAX Transit Tour with On The Move Riders Club

Last week, Metro’s Eat Shop Play and the Crenshaw/LAX team hosted the On the Move Riders Program to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project. The group met at the Crenshaw/Expo station and walked to the Metro Crenshaw Office. The day included a presentation by the project team, a windshield tour of the project and lunch at Michelle’s Country Diner. All of our program guests were excited to have this opportunity to see first-hand the progress that has been made on the Crenshaw/LAX Project and look forward to its launch in 2019.

The On the Move Riders Program is Metro’s peer-to-peer training program designed to educate older adults 62+ on riding the Metro system. The program consists of Travel Buddies who assist their peers in learning how to navigate public transportation and provides them the confidence to ride independently.

Procurement Postings

Millwork, Cabinetry, and Countertop Production (IFB)
Metro will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure Millwork, Cabinetry & Countertop Production. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, March 27, 2017 through Monday, May 15, 2017.

The selected contractor will replace, repair, reproduce or manufacture new cabinetry and millwork contained in the Union Station Gateway Building (USG) based on the specifications required by Metro.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Antwaun Boykin, Senior Contract Administrator at (213) 922-1056.

Replacement Automated External Defibrillator Units (IFB) - Small Business Prime
Metro will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure Replacement Automated External Defibrillator...
(AED) Units. **This solicitation is open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Wednesday, March 29, 2017 through Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

Metro seeks to purchase ninety (90) new AED units, thirty (30) AED training units and an additional one-hundred twenty (120) units of training pads to replace approximately eighty-four (84) old AED units throughout Metro’s divisions and various other locations.

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

**Metro Unified Messaging System Assessment (RFP) - Small Business Prime**

Metro released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure an assessment of Metro’s messaging system. **This solicitation is open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Thursday, March 23, 2017 through Monday, July 17, 2017.

Metro/ITS intends to perform an assessment of Metro’s voice and messaging communications needs and to recommend a Best Practices approach for a modern enterprise unified messaging system.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Victor Zepeda, Contract Administrator at zepedav@metro.net.

**Bus Tire Leasing and Maintenance Services (RFP)**

Metro released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide tire leasing and maintenance services for Metro’s bus and non-revenue vehicle fleets as outlined in the Statement of Work. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, March 24, 2017 through Thursday, July 6, 2017.

This Statement of Work (SOW) covers the requirements for leasing and servicing of 22.5” radial tires for the bus fleet operated and maintained by Metro (including newly acquired buses) and servicing of non-revenue vehicle tires. Non-revenue vehicle tires to be serviced under this Contract shall be Metro-furnished.

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

**Metro Video Bench (RFP) - Small Business Prime**

Metro will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure video production services. **This solicitation is open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, March 27, 2017 through Thursday, July 6, 2017.

The Metro Communications Department seeks a pool of qualified and experienced video production firms to produce short videos on a project assignment basis for use on the agency’s paid and promoted use via website, social media, community presentations, and other customer and stakeholder channels.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Antwaun Boykin, Senior Contract Administrator at (213) 922-1056.

**Construction Notices: Purple Line Extension Project, I-5**

**Purple Line Extension Project: Weekend Wilshire Blvd Full Closure - Fairfax Ave to Spaulding Ave**

Beginning Friday, March 24 at 8:00 pm thru Monday, March 27 at 6:00 a.m., there will be a full closure of Wilshire Blvd. from Fairfax Ave. to Spaulding Ave. to support the start of the Fairfax decking operation. Click the underlined title above for the full construction notice.

Caltrans Interstate 5: All Construction Updates here.

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"The greatest use of a life is to spend it on something that will outlast it."

- William James