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October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

I am proud to announce that Metro will officially recognize the 2018 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The theme this year is “America’s Workforce: Empowering All”. Since 1945, NDEAM is observed each October. NDEAM raises awareness about disability employment issues as well as celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents. Stay tuned for additional details and announcements to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month at Metro.

Hispanic Heritage Month: Leadership Spotlight - Debra Avila

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, we want to recognize Debra Avila, Metro Chief Vendor/Contract Management Officer. Debra is a recent recipient of the Corporate Leader of the Year Award presented to her at the Annual Latinas in Business Awards Gala, honoring “Women of Excellence” hosted by the National Latina Business Women Association-Los Angeles. She also received a Mujeres Del Año Award in celebration of extraordinary ladies who are making a difference in our communities.

Born and raised here in Los Angeles County, Debra is a seasoned supply chain and procurement professional with more than 25 years of experience in the industry, primarily at Southern California Edison. Debra holds a Bachelor’s Degree from California State University-Los Angeles and has held senior positions overseeing procurement, sourcing, contracting, client/vendor relationship management, logistics, warehousing, and diversity and economic development. She has also been a board member of the Utility

Supply Management Alliance (USMA) and been an advisory board member of the University of San Diego Supply Chain Management Institute.

Debra is a results oriented leader that collaborates effectively and consistently. She is an incredible part of my Senior Leadership Team and I am proud to have her leading the Vendor/Contract Management team here at Metro.



Visit with Chatsworth Division 8 Operations and Maintenance Staff

This past Friday, Chief System Security Law Enforcement Officer Alex Wiggins and I went out to Chatsworth Bus Division 8 to visit with staff and catch up on the latest happening at their division. We first visited with Transportation Operations Managers Don McKenzie and Andrew Carrasco then made our way to the Maintenance shop to meet with Maintenance Director Robert Cavazos.

On the transportation-side, we discussed the importance of recruitment and hiring of operators as well as safety and security on the Orange Line and around the general area of Division 8. I took the opportunity to meet the operators that were available in the break area including Francisco Escobedo, a Metro operator for an outstanding 43 years. Prior to joining Metro's predecessor Rapid Transit District, Mr. Escobedo began operating buses in Mexico in 1967 as he attended the University of Guadalajara. He has worked at Metro Divisions 1, 9, 7 and his current Division, 8. He is a proud United States Air Force veteran as well.

We walked over to the Maintenance shop where Director Robert Cavazos showed us around and introduced us to his all-star team of mechanics and service attendants. I was very glad to hear from these front line employees who gave their input on the transition to electrification, their thoughts on the different types of buses – BYD and New Flyer – and educated us on various maintenance jobs.

Thanks to Division 8 staff for welcoming us and showing us around the Chatsworth campus. This is an excellent time to not only learn about issues related to our core business, but a moment to learn about the incredible stories and background of our operator and maintenance employees. I look forward to visiting another division unannounced soon.



Metro Well Represented at APTA Annual

Metro staff was invited to APTA Annual conference to participate on various panel topics including addressing homelessness on transit systems, safety management, our strategic plan, our Measure M Lessons Learned, our innovative workforce and procurement efforts, and the transition to electric buses. Staff also discussed Metro's participation in the APTA efforts on innovative infrastructure development in Canada and the future of mobility.

Our Communications Team was honored with an AdWheels Grand Award for the Metro Manners customer code of conduct educational campaign, which utilizes a clever, catchy music video-style series focused on the top behaviors that are a menace to our customers.

Lastly, congratulations to Metro Planning Department intern Kidada Malloy who won an APTA Foundation Scholarship and to Deputy Executive Officer Laura Cornejo for graduating from the APTA Leadership Program. Laura delivered a fantastic group capstone presentation on the topic - "The New Language of Transit."

Thanks to all of our LA Metro staff that made it out to APTA Annual to represent Metro with excellence among our industry this week.



October is Fire Prevention – and Fire Drill Practice - Month

October 7-13, 2018 is National Fire Prevention Week (FPW), observed each year in the second week of October, in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire (October 8, 1871). This year's FPW campaign, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere," looks to educate people on steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire—and how to escape safely in the event of one.

Safety remains our top priority at Metro. Our Fire and Life Safety (FLS) team in the Corporate Safety Department has significantly improved the level of preparedness, coordination and communication within Gateway, which has special requirements as a high rise building. Each floor and suite now has a FLS team, led by two LAFD-certified floor wardens. They play an important role in ensuring Metro's compliance with LAFD's Reg 4 and related fire codes. During an emergency, the teams work together with first responders to ensure the safety of everyone in the Gateway building. These employees volunteer their time and efforts to ensure that we stay safe while at work. It is important that we always give them our full cooperation and support.

As part of our fire and life safety awareness drive at Metro, the FLS team is launching a series of initiatives over the next few weeks, including improved stairwell signage, leveraging technology to share evacuation information. Additionally, the annual Rule of Five fire drills will take place in October, which every employee is required to participate in.

For more information on fire and life safety at Gateway, please email Anika-Aduesa Smart at smarta@metro.net or Kha Vue at vuek@metro.net, or visit the National Fire Prevention Association at www.nfpa.org for more tips on fire safety and preparedness.

Link Union Station (Link US) Open House Event

Metro hosted an Open House last Wednesday to continue to educate transit riders and visitors to Union Station about the Link Union Station (Link US) Project.

The event was held in the East Portal of Union Station making it convenient for transit riders to stop by and learn about the project en route to their next transit connections, including Metro Rail and Bus, Metrolink, Amtrak and other transportation services offered at the station. The Link US Project team was on hand to

share conceptual renderings of the proposed project plans, and presented valuable information to the interested public that wanted to learn more about the project.

Agency staff from Metrolink, Amtrak, as well as High Speed Rail were also on-hand to answer questions regarding their respective current and/or future anticipated transit services for the station. Approx. 150 people attended the Open House and the crowd was comprised mostly of regular transit riders that frequently utilize the existing station. The project team received a great deal of helpful feedback, suggestions, and questions from the attendees and will continue to consider the public input through the completion of the DEIS/EIR.

A Draft EIS/R for this project is anticipated for public release and review before the end of this year. For more details about this project, please click [here](#).



Procurement Postings

Solicitation for Bond Underwriters for Prop C New Money Transaction (RFP)

Metro released a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking services from qualified underwriters for Metro's upcoming Proposition C bond transaction. This solicitation is open to underwriters in the pool approved by the Board in October 2015. The procurement blackout period is expected to run from Monday September 10, 2018 through Thursday, December 6, 2018.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by LuAnne Edwards Schurtz at (213) 922-2554.

Division 20 Portal Widening Turnback Early Demolition (IFB)

Metro will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure a Contractor to perform the Work includes demolition of all buildings within Viertel's Tow Yard and the National Cold Storage (ADCO). The Scope of Work also includes soil excavation, stockpiling, testing, hauling of excavated soil, and grading at the ADCO property. Protect two existing Southern California Gas vaults located on the sidewalk adjacent to the ADCO property. Partial demolition of the historic Citizen's Warehouse (Pickleworks) and stabilization of the building are also required. The Project Labor Agreement/Construction Careers Policy will apply to this

Procurement. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Tuesday, October 2, 2018 to Monday, December 31, 2018.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Diana Dai-Tsang, Principal Contract Administrator, at (213) 418-3310.

Inergen Fire Suppression System Maintenance (RFP)

Metro will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure services for the Inergen Fire Suppression System Maintenance. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Tuesday, October 2, 2018 through Friday, November 30, 2018.

Metro is seeking a contractor to provide required Inergen and Preaction Fire Suppression System Maintenance and L.A. Fire Department REG4 Testing and Certification.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Manchi Yi, Principal Contract Administrator, at (213) 418-3332.

Construction Notices: Regional Connector, I-5

Regional Connector Transit Project: Weekend Closure of Flower St/6th St

Construction of the Regional Connector has reached the halfway mark, and crews can now start building the connection to the 7th St/Metro Center station in downtown L.A.'s Financial District. Beginning Saturday, July 7, a series of Flower St weekend closures will be in effect through October 22 in downtown LA's Financial District.

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

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."

~ Helen Keller

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