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It's Off Limits: Building Sexual Harassment-Free Zones in LA

Last week, I was pleased to join Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Chair Sheila Kuehl, Peace Over Violence Executive Director Patti Giggans, Metro Chief Policy Officer Elba Higueros and other partners and community stakeholders for the event "It's Off Limits: Building Sexual Harassment-Free Zones in Los Angeles." In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, the event sought to engage the public with community-oriented activities and conversation for creating sexual harassment-free zones in Los Angeles County, where schools, places of employment, transit and all public spaces are off-limits to harassment.

The event included a roundtable discussion which Metro discussed recent efforts to combat sexual harassment via its "It's Off Limits" anti-sexual harassment campaign and sexual harassment counseling hotline. The 24/7 hotline, in operation since 2016, provides confidential help, and will soon be expanded to include seven additional languages. This event was intended to advance public discussion in advance of Denim Day, which will be officially celebrated on Wednesday, April 24.

I was very pleased to be a part of this important discussion. I want to thank our partners in the Peace Over Violence organization, Metro Transit Security Special Projects Manager Jennifer Loew, all of our roundtable participants, and all the community members that came out to support the It's Off Limits Event.



April 2019 Operations Employees of the Month

Operations Department recognized employees from Transportation and Maintenance during Thursday's Operations, Safety, and Customer Experience Meeting as the department's April 2019 Employees of the Month.

The Transportation Employee of the Month award was presented to Mr. George Hilton, Bus Operator at Division 2. Mr. Hilton has been with Metro for 19 years, beginning his career in 2000. He is an outstanding employee with a great operating record. For 19 years, he has not had a chargeable accident. Mr. Hilton has never served a suspension for any reason and has never attended a formal hearing. In addition to the great operating record, he has an exceptional attendance and punctuality record. Mr. Hilton is well respected by his peers and has received numerous customer commendations. He enjoys being a line mentor because he loves having a role at shaping the future operators here at Metro. He also enjoys the interaction with our customers of Los Angeles County area.

The Maintenance Employee of the Month award was presented to Ms. Victoria Bright, Mechanic A at Division 5. Ms. Bright has been with Metro for 29 years, beginning her career in 1990. She brings true professional attributes to maintenance and genuinely cares about delivering excellent quality work and service for our customers. Ms. Bright is extremely organized and focused on continuously learning and developing best practices to help manage Metro's routine Maintenance activities both efficiently and effectively. She enjoys assisting coworkers with identifying defects on buses and helps to make sure our preventive Maintenance Program is followed by Metro's standards. Ms. Bright brings a positive high energy and adds a personal touch to our Department. Congratulations to Victoria and George on their recognition as employees of the month.



United States Representatives Staff Visit Metro

During last week's Congressional recess, Metro's Community Relations, Construction, Government Relations, Highways, Operations and Planning staff provided briefings and tours for U.S. Representative Karen Bass's transportation staff and U.S. Representative Grace Napolitano's district and capital staff reading projects within their Congressional Districts.

Last Monday, Rep. Bass's transportation staff was provided an overview of Metro projects within the 37th Congressional district including – Sepulveda Transit Corridor, Crenshaw Line North Extension, Vermont/Lincoln Bus Rapid Transit Corridors and tours of the Westside Purple Line Section 1 and Crenshaw/LAX project alignments.

Last Thursday, Rep. Napolitano's staff met with Metro staff at the Monrovia Gold Line Rail Yard for a briefing on Metro projects and tour of the Rail Yard. Specifically, in the 32nd District Metro projects are on Gold Line Foothill Extension, Bus Rapid Transit Vision and Principles Study, Regional Rail projects, and SR-71, I-605/I-10, I-605/SR-60 and SR-57/SR60 Highway projects.

Both offices expressed their appreciation for the content-rich information on all of these projects along with the tours that were provided. I want to thank the many Metro departments that collaborated to help coordinate these successful briefings and tours for the staff of our federal elected officials.



Intel Smart Cities Initiative Brings Vietnamese Transportation Officials to Metro

As a part of Intel's Smart Cities Initiative, Intel is aiming to make Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam a Smart City by the year 2025 and building out a smart public transportation system will be their first step. Intel sponsored a group of 10 transportation professionals to come to the United States to learn best practices and get an idea of the types of projects major transportation agencies, such as LA Metro, are working on. During their trip to Metro, Sr. Construction Relations Officer Brett C.S. Roberts hosted them and organized presentations from Metro's Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department, Project Engineering and Rail Operations who discussed the various programs, projects and responsibilities they have at the agency. The afternoon concluded with a tour of Union Station and a ride on the Red Line to 7th St/Metro Center station.

The feedback from each of the attendees was glowing as they learned about Metro initiatives such as our small business and construction mitigation programs that were previously unheard of to them. They were also surprised by the amount of investment Metro is putting into capital projects such as the Cresnahw/LAX and Airport Metro Connector projects. I want to thank Metro staff for another stellar job of coordinating across departments to ensure our Vietnamese transportation partners learn all they could about the groundbreaking work we are doing here at LA Metro.



West Side Central Older Adult Transportation Pop-Up Expo

On Wednesday, April 17, Metro's Community Education team hosted a senior-friendly Transportation Resource Pop-Up providing educational presentations highlighting Metro's On the Move Riders Program and other transit related programs available for older adults in the San Fernando Valley. Attendees were invited to an upcoming Transit Tour in San Fernando leading to Universal City Walk. Tour participants will experience riding Metro bus and rail, make new friends, and gain exciting new experiences. The goal of the program is to provide older adults with the tools and confidence to use public transportation.

Event participants were treated to on-site senior TAP card services provided by Metro's Mobile Customer Center as well as other resources by Metro's LIFE program, Metro's Law Enforcement, AARP, Access Services, Metrolink, and LADOT Dash. A special thanks to all our partners in this event. If you would like to learn more about the program, please reach out to Lilly Ortiz at 213-922-2299.



Metro's Community Education participated in the LA Times 24th Annual Festival of Books

On Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14, Metro's Community Education (MCE) team participated in the LA Times 24th Annual Festival of Books. Since 1996, this event has brought together hundreds of writers, poets, story tellers, film makers, artist, and musician to celebrate the world of literature. An estimated 150,000 people attended the event over the two days and many of which took the Expo Line to get there. MCE promoted transit safety and engaged with the community by answering questions and offered games to attendees for a chance to win a prize. Participation at events like the Festival of Books is a great way to provide our patrons with the opportunity to connect with Metro staff and learn more about projects and programs available to them and their communities.



Metro's Tennis Team Wins 1st Place Trophy

The Metro tennis team competed in a corporate tournament on April 14, 2019 at the Lakewood Tennis Center and brought home the 1st place trophy. The Metro team played in the 38th Annual Bunny Bowl Classic Tournament against teams from Boeing, Southern California Edison, Northrop Grumman, and Aerospace Corporation, and pulled off a huge victory. The Metro team won 66% of their overall games played. Metro has been competing in this tournament for the past 15 years and this is the 2nd year in a row that they have won the Bunny Bowl trophy.

Team captain Jackie Bobo-Fabre said after the match, “We were a lean team this time around, but everyone stepped up and we were victorious!” The Metro tennis team has now taken home three first places finishes in their last three tournaments; hopefully, this trend will continue. Team members consist of the following current or retired Metro employees and/or family members: Jackie Bobo-Fabre, Steve Ramsey, Thomas Traylor, Gerry Tomsic, Vannia De La Loza, and Maureen Diaz. Metro’s next tournament will be in October of this year. The team is always looking for new members; if you are interested in participating, please contact Jackie Bobo-Fabre at BoboFabreJ@metro.net or Steve Ramsey at RamseyS@metro.net.



Procurement Postings

Bosch BVMS Software Upgrade (RFP)

Metro released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure a consultant to provide software upgrade services. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Wednesday, April 17, 2019 through Monday, June 24, 2019.

Metro is seeking the services of a consultant to upgrade Metro’s Bosch Video Management Software.

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.

Public-Private Partnership (P3) Financial Advisory Services Bench (RFIQ)

Metro released a Request for Interests and Qualifications (RFIQ) to establish a bench of qualified firms to provide specialized financial advisory consulting support services from qualified firms on as-needed basis to support the potential use Public-Private Partnerships (P3) and other alternative delivery models for a variety of transportation-related projects, including but not limited to highway and transit capital, transportation-ancillary facilities, and mobility technology.

The Bench of qualified firms shall provide financial expertise and associated resources and deliverables necessary for successful project delivery through various types of P3 contracting structures, to assist Metro in identifying and evaluating potentially viable projects, advancing these projects through feasibility analysis, pre-procurement and project development, procurement, and/or post-procurement, implementation, and administration project phases. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, April 22, 2019 through Friday, September 13, 2019.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Lily Lopez, Contract Administration Manager, at (213) 922-4639.

Federal Advocacy Services (RFP)

Metro released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure federal advocacy services. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Tuesday, April 16, 2019 through Tuesday, June 25, 2019.

Metro is seeking federal advocacy services in the Washington D.C. area. The Federal Advocacy Firm will assist in the development of legislative policies and carry out an aggressive advocacy program to advance Metro's interests in Washington, D.C.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by the contract administrator at zepeda@metro.net. The due date for proposals is 2pm, May 7, 2019.

Low Income Fare is Easy Program (LIFE) (RFP)

Metro released a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking an experienced Contractor who under Metro's direction provides oversight, coordinates, and manages approximately 200 non-profit or governmental agencies (AGENCIES) within the Contractor's assigned service areas for Metro's Low Income Fare is Easy (LIFE) program.

LIFE provides transportation subsidies to low income individuals within the Los Angeles County in the form of either a pass discount, a 20 ride benefit option, and in certain circumstances 4-ride card or taxi service provision. The procurement blackout period is expected to run from April 17, 2019 through October 1, 2019.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Art Torres, Senior Manager at (213) 922-1047.

Construction Notices: Regional Connector, Purple Line Extension, I-5

Regional Connector: Deck Panel Removal for Excavation on Flower St

Excavation of the tunnel box below Flower St continues in downtown Los Angeles as part of efforts to connect the Regional Connector Transit Project to the existing 7th St/Metro Center Station. In order to effectively build the tunnel box, crews will remove segments of the road deck panels on weekdays during daytime hours, between 5th and 6th St with minimal impacts to the traveling public. To learn more, click [here](#) for the full construction notice.

Regional Connector: Excavation on Flower St Continues Southward

Work continues steadily below Flower St, with rebar and concrete installation between 4th and 5th St. South of 5th St, excavation and utility hanging is moving steadily towards the future connection to 7th St/Metro Center Station. Ultimately, some 108,000 cubic yards of soil will be excavated from beneath Flower St. Work will continue from May 8, 2017 and continue through summer 2019.

Purple Line Extension Project: Utility Potholing below Wilshire Blvd

Utility potholing began to identify existing utilities below Wilshire Blvd. between Beverly Dr. and N. Crescent Dr. All work will be completed during non-peak hour traffic times. Lane closures and turn restrictions on Wilshire Blvd. will be required for this work. Two lanes will always be maintained on Wilshire Blvd. both eastbound and westbound. Communication efforts will be ongoing to provide stakeholders sufficient notice prior to work starting in specific areas.

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

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

~ Audrey Hepburn



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