

CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

In this Issue

- [New Blue Update: Shift in Closures from Southern Segment to Northern Segment](#)
- [Infrastructure for the Next Generation](#)
- [Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants Awarded to Metro](#)
- [Halfway to La Cienega Community Event](#)
- [On the Move Riders Program's 6th Annual Travel Buddy Recognition Luncheon](#)
- [Metro Regional Connector Pitches in at 16th Annual "Sparkle Little Tokyo"](#)
- [Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Leadership Spotlight - Conan Cheung and Chet Takeuchi](#)
- [Procurement Postings](#)
- [Construction Notices](#)

New Blue Update: Shift in Closures from Southern Segment to Northern Segment

The southern segment of construction for the New Blue Improvements Project is going great. It is within budget and on schedule. Overhead Catenary System, train control, track and fastener work are all undergoing safety testing activities required for re-opening of the southern segment. This coming Saturday, June 1, the southern segment of the Blue Line is scheduled to reopen, as we move into the northern segment closure for four months and a shorter closure of two Expo Line stations starting on Saturday, June 22, 2019. Additionally, as planned, the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks station will remain closed through the northern segment phase as it undergoes complete renovation.

Metro Communications team has started and will continue outreach related to the northern segment closures, including the two expo line station closures. Additional staff has been added for direct customer outreach at the northern and southern segment stations.

As I communicated last week, please consider volunteering (non-contract employees only) to help customers navigate the closure and direct them to the bus shuttles. Volunteers are needed for AM and PM peak hours from June 1 - June 16. You can easily sign-up to volunteer for shifts, [here](#).



Infrastructure for the Next Generation

Metro's Human Capital & Development (HC&D) Department in partnership with iyai+ (Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure) hosted an Infrastructure Week youth event last week titled, "Infrastructure for the Next Generation." The event was an inclusive and interactive platform for students in grades 9-12 to gain insights about pursuing a career in infrastructure. Students were able to engage industry professionals for networking opportunities, learn about diverse career paths and internship opportunities, and were given opportunity to enhance their communication and leadership skills. We were pleased to observe that just over half of the participants were female and virtually all students stated the event was a good investment of their time when surveyed. This was a very impactful event as many students voiced their interest in fields and careers they had never been exposed to.

Many hands were involved in the success of this Infrastructure for the Next Generation Event and it could not have been done without the incredible collaboration with iyai+ and our industry partners. Special thanks to Metro Chief Human Capital & Development Officer Joanne Peterson, Executive Officer Patrice McElroy, Transportation School Manager Maria Meleandez and their HC&D team as well as Metro Operations staff, Metro Marketing and all volunteers for their generous contribution to this impactful event.



Caltrans Transportation Planning Grants Awarded to Metro

The State announced awards for the FY19-20 Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant Program and Metro received welcome news. Metro's Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) team, with support from Grants Management, partnered with cities that are along the proposed West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) transit corridor and the County of LA to pursue these grants. Metro funded grant writers and provided technical assistance in the grant writing process. Five grant applications were submitted, and three of those grants were awarded. The grant awards total \$1.25 million, and will fund:

- County of Los Angeles – Slauson Station Area TOC Specific Plan
- Eco Rapid Transit and Smart Growth America – Pacific/Randolph and Florence/Salt Lake TOC Specific Plans (in partnership with the cities of Huntington Park, Bell and Cudahy)
- City of Bell Gardens – General Plan Transportation and Circulation Element Update

In line with the June 2018, Board-adopted TOC Policy, these grant-funded projects are part of Metro's efforts to support, incentivize and enable cities to prepare land use and economic development plans that create transit supportive places.

Halfway to La Cienega Community Event

I want to invite you all to Metro's "Halfway to La Cienega" community event for the Metro Purple Line Extension Section 1 Project. On Sunday, June 2, from 11 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on the Great Lawn between LACMA and the La Brea Tar Pits, Metro will be hosting a community celebration for the project status reaching its halfway milestone.

The event will feature entertainment, food, a raffle, giveaways, and the opportunity for attendees to learn more about local community groups, Metro, the Eat Shop Play businesses, and the Natural History Museum. We appreciate the community's patience as we work to improve mobility and reduce congestion in this important Wilshire corridor.

On the Move Riders Program's 6th Annual Travel Buddy Recognition Luncheon

Metro's On the Move Riders Program (OTMRP) celebrated the Travel Buddies who volunteer their time to empower older adults to utilize public transportation. Today, OTMRP has 49 Travel Buddies and 29 Travel Clubs throughout LA County dedicated to accomplishing this goal. Travel Buddies provide group and one-on-one travel training skills to support older adult's efforts to learn to travel on the fixed transit system in LA County. OTMRP's goal is to enhance and improve senior mobility through travel training and transit safety education. The luncheon included words of appreciation from Interim DEO of Community Relations, Anthony Crump and DEO of Countywide Planning & Development, Fanny Pan. Also joining the luncheon was Associate State Director of Community for AAPR California, Stephanie Ramirez. For more information about OTMRP contact Lilly Ortiz at ortizl@metro.net.



Metro Regional Connector Pitches in at 16th Annual "Sparkle Little Tokyo"

Every year Little Tokyo community members and local businesses come together on a Saturday morning to remove trash and debris from the streets and sidewalks of the historic Japantown in the LA city center. Celebrating 16 years, Little Tokyo Sparkle is a volunteer-driven effort to beautify the neighborhood, bring neighbors together and strengthen community ties.

This year, Metro staff from the Regional Connector Transit Project joined the more than 300 volunteers to pick up litter, bag it, and bring the collected trash to a designated pick-up spot. This year was especially memorable as the Little Tokyo Public Safety Association, local leaders and community supporters rededicated the mural "Home is Little Tokyo" located on the corner of Central and 1st at Japanese Village Plaza in honor of the late Nancy Kikuchi. Nancy's vision to depict the values and history of Little Tokyo within this landmark artwork and to create its visual messaging through community-based dialog, is one of the reasons she will not be forgotten. The Metro team is thankful to have been part of this rewarding experience.



Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Leadership Spotlight - Conan Cheung and Chet Takeuchi

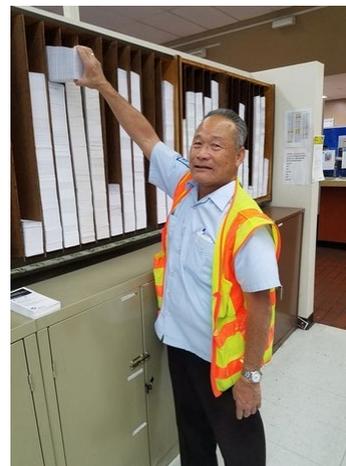
To close out our leadership spotlight series, we want to recognize two employees from Metro Operations, Senior Executive Officer of Service Development, Scheduling and Analysis (SDSA) Conan Cheung and Bus Operator of Sun Valley Division 15 Chet Takeuchi. Conan is responsible for establishing system wide transit service policies and standards; bus and rail service planning and scheduling; operations data analysis; and administration of the Regional Service Councils. Prior to Metro, Conan was Director of Planning and

Scheduling with the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System and worked for transportation planning organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Conan and his team lead and support various critical and innovative Metro projects and initiatives. One of those projects is the NextGen Bus Study to redesign Metro's bus network to reflect the transforming landscape of transportation and diverse customer needs within Los Angeles County. In January 2019, the NextGen Bus Study market analysis earned 2nd place for the 2019 Innovations in Transit Performance Measurement Award at the Transportation Research Board's 98th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., and was recently featured in a [Wired magazine article](#). Outside of work, Conan's interests include cooking, travelling, and water sports.

Chet Takeuchi is a Bus Operator working at Division 15, in the Sun Valley area of the East San Fernando Valley. Born and raised in Hawaii, Chet has lived in the Los Angeles area since the early 1980's. Chet, an 8-year Metro employee, was the 2019 winner of the annual Wheelchair Securement competition at Division 15. Chet was not in the competitive spirit but entered the competition as a way of obtaining more "tickets" to be enrolled in some of the Metro giveaways. Though he entered the competition in a casual manner, Chet never approaches his work duties casually. Chet approaches his work conscientiously and is often at the Division hours before he is scheduled to drive. Chet enjoys being tidy and he carries that into the workplace as well. Everyone at Transportation Division 15 knows the time tables are neatly stocked in their stacks because Chet does it. He spends hours of his own time each week to stocking the time tables and his peers appreciate this work.

Chet spends much of his free time reading and watching You Tube videos. He loves learning new things, particularly about innovations in technology. Chet says he has varied interests from travel, motorcycles, health issues, vitamins, watching Nature shows, enjoying outdoor activities and walking at O'Melveny Park in Porter Ranch. Chet lives in Sylmar with his wife Bertha and has three grown daughters and three grown sons. He is active in his church and enjoys volunteering for church-related events.



Procurement Postings

Service Contract - Uninterruptible Power Supply (RFP)

Metro released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for servicing Metro's Uninterruptible Power Supplies. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, May 24, 2019 through Friday, November 22, 2019.

This procurement is for maintenance servicing of the Uninterruptible Power Supplies at various Metro Rail Stations.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only

be answered by Lorretta Norris, Sr. Contract Administrator at (213) 922-2632.

Brake Chambers (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure Brake Chambers. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Tuesday, May 28, 2019 through Friday, September 27, 2019.

This procurement is for the purchase of Brake Chambers which is needed to maintain the bus fleet and thus avoid disruption in service. 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 Kimberlyn Richardson, Principal Contract Administrator at (213) 922-2085.

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

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. Beginning Monday, June 3rd, 2019, additional work hours will be added from 2 pm to 11 pm.

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](#).

"Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do."

~ Bruce Lee

[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)

