

# CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

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Chief Executive Officer

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### California Delegation Tours Virgin Trains USA

Last week, I joined LA County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Kathryn Barger, Metro Chief Program Management Officer Rick Clarke, Metrolink CEO Stephanie Wiggins and about 20 others as part of a California delegation visiting and touring Virgin Trains USA in Florida. We toured the Virgin Trains Headquarters and Miami Central Station before taking the Virgin Train – known operationally as Brightline – to West Palm Beach where we toured that station as well as their Running Repair Facility. This was a great opportunity to get informed and understand the operations and logistics of a privately owned high speed rail that is considering their options in Southern California.

Brightline is the only privately owned, operated and maintained passenger rail system in the United States. They provide express service connecting passengers to Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach—with planned future service to Orlando. Last year, Virgin Trains USA acquired XpressWest, the private railroad firm that had plans to build a line connecting Las Vegas with southern California.

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### California Earthquake Preparedness

This past weekends' seismic activities proved to be a reminder about the hazards of earthquakes in the State of California. I want to assure you that our staff was diligently working over the weekend to assess the risks of any adverse effects to guarantee your safety at work by checking key locations for structural compromises. Although we had no reports of significant damages or serious injuries, the threat of potential harm is not lost on me. As such, I want to take this opportunity to remind you that our ability to recover from and remain

resilient to these natural disasters is preparedness.

Please make sure that your COOP Plan and Emergency Procedures are up to date and that your staff is familiar with the online earthquake training supported by our Emergency Management Office. Additionally, please make sure you are familiar with the LA Metro Emergency Reference Guide which contains details on how to prepare/refresh emergency supply kits. Your knowledge about the best and most appropriate actions to take during an earthquake is the first step toward reducing the risk of injury to yourself and colleagues.

I encourage all departments to make earthquake awareness (“Drop, Cover, and Hold “On) their next ‘safety moment’ and to contact the Emergency Management Office (metroEM@metro.net) if you have any questions or requests for supplemental training.

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### **Metro's Bidding & Estimating Training Academy Graduates**

Metro's Contractor Development and Bonding Program (CDBP) recently completed its 2nd Bidding & Estimating Construction Training Academy. This seven-week training academy was designed to provide contractors with technical strategies for identifying and determining job cost, as well as overall insight into what prime contractors, and Metro, are looking for during Invitation for Bids (IFB) or Request Proposals (RFP).

Metro's Bidding & Estimating Training included a Design-Build Mock Bid Exercise. Contractors were placed in groups of 5 and were given time before and after class to collaborate. The training material presented by the prime contractors were tailored to address the scope and project requirements outlined in the Mock Bid IFB. The groups were instructed to submit their bid as if it were an actual bid opportunity for Metro. The winners of the Mock Bid Exercise were Team One which consisted of Michael Reyes Electrical, Allegro Steel, Westpac Construction, Solar Connection, and All-Level Installation.

Fifteen Small Businesses graduated from the free training academy and will now have the ability and confidence to use the skills and information that encompass bidding and estimating future Metro contracts. Thank you to CDBP administrators Merriwether & Williams, and Metro Interim Executive Officer Tashai Smith and her team for making this academy a success. Below is a photo of the 2019 Metro Bidding & Estimating Academy's Sponsors, Facilitators and Participants.



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### **Accounting Department Annual Team Building Retreat**

Metro Accounting Department celebrated its 19th Annual Team Building Retreat on June 27 at the California Endowment Center. This year's theme explored the benefits of mindfulness, emotional intelligence and neuroscience. Lead mindfulness expert and author Michelle Gale, from the Google-based Search Inside Yourself Leadership Institute, spent the morning sharing tools and techniques on mindful breathing, resilience, empathy, compassion and leadership integration in our everyday life.

The afternoon was dedicated to team goals and accomplishments for the fiscal year. Aligned with agency and CEO goals, this year's team themes encompassed areas in Next Level Leadership, Diversity, Innovation, Employee Appreciation, and Service Excellence. Team Accomplishments included various projects and milestones including a quarterly employee newsletter, a service excellence workshop, and a leadership forum that I was happy to participate in. Congratulations to the Accounting Department for another successful year of team partnering.



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### **Green Line to Suspend Weekend Rail Service Between Crenshaw and Redondo Beach Stations**

Metro will suspend weekend rail service on the Green Line between Crenshaw and Redondo Beach stations from July 12 through the Fall of 2019 to continue work to connect Green Line tracks with the new Crenshaw/LAX Line tracks. Rail service suspension has been scheduled to begin every Friday at 9 p.m., with rail service resuming at the beginning of service every Monday morning until work is completed.

Free Metro bus shuttles will replace rail service and run every 15 minutes between the Crenshaw and Redondo Beach stations. During the service suspension the following stations will not have rail service: Hawthorne/Lennox, Aviation/LAX, Mariposa, El Segundo, Douglas and Redondo Beach. Regular Green Line rail service will remain between Norwalk and Crenshaw stations, where passengers will transfer to buses to continue their trip. Regular bus service at all closed stations will remain the same as usual.

The rail connection between the Green and the Crenshaw/LAX lines began construction last January when rail tracks were installed, followed by the installation of overhead power lines. The closures will allow Metro to begin testing rail systems software. The whole process may take more than 10 weekends. Metro thanks riders for their patience as the agency prepares to open the Crenshaw/LAX Line in 2020.

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### **Metro Citizens' Advisory Council Monthly Update**

This last month, our Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) elected new officers. The new Chair is Brian Bowens, an appointee of Director Ridley-Thomas and resident of South Los Angeles. He has expressed interest in considering revisions to the CAC Bylaws that may help the group engage more substantively with staff and the Metro Board. The new Vice Chair is Tammy Ashton, an appointee of Director Hahn and resident of

Downey. Hank Fung and Tony Banash continue in their roles as Secretary and Chair Emeritus respectively. In addition to electing new officers at their June General Assembly meeting, the group discussed First/Last Mile, Link US, and their interest in potentially establishing an Ad-Hoc Safety and Customer Experience Committee. Following the meeting, Director Krekorian appointed James Askew of North Hollywood to the CAC. There are currently 22 members of the CAC.

The Metro CAC is a State mandated council with membership that reflects a broad spectrum of interests and geographic areas of the County. The CAC may consult, obtain, and collect public input on matters of interest and concern to the community and can communicate the CAC's recommendations with respect to such issues to Metro. Issues may also be assigned to the CAC by Metro for its review, comment and recommendation. Each member of the Metro Board of Directors shall nominate four public members to the CAC to serve at the pleasure of the appointing Board member. More information may be found [here](#).

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## Procurement Postings

### Prime Industrial Hygiene & Environmental Safety (RFP) - Small Business Prime

Metro released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure industrial hygiene and environmental services.

**This solicitation is open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, July 8, 2019 through Thursday, October 31, 2019.

Metro is seeking a qualified Contractor to provide as-needed industrial hygiene and environmental safety services. The purpose of this contract is to augment current staff efforts to promote occupational and environmental safety services in support of Metro's compliance with applicable federal, state and local safety, health and environmental regulations and to reduce workers' compensation liabilities.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Victor Zepeda at [zepedav@metro.net](mailto:zepedav@metro.net).

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## 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. 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.](#)

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"I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."

~ Thomas Jefferson

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