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Happy Holidays 2019

With the end of year upon us, I would like to wish each of you Happy Holidays and a wonderful 2020. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the outstanding work and dedication over the course of 2019. We have much to be proud of and have accomplished a great deal this year including:

- Safely providing transit services for 1.2 million riders a day we have an awesome responsibility that we must not take for granted.
- Meeting or exceeding the Measure M schedule that we took out to LA County voters in 2016.
- Following several key executive leader departures, we reconstituted the Senior Leadership Team without skipping a beat.
- Much progress was made on the NextGen Initiative.
- Release of our "How Women Travel Study" and looking to begin implementation of the Action Plan.
- On the verge of the successful execution of the Purple Line, Section III, \$1.3 billion dollar Full Funding Grant Agreement. (Entering final stage of Congressional review in mid-January 2020)
- Though bumpy, the reopening of the A-Line. (things are improving every week and we appreciate all the staff involved in these improvements)
- Graduation of our 4th Leadership Academy Class (succession planning).

- Developing & executing a balanced budget for FY20.
- Expansion of our Homeless Outreach efforts and an overall decrease in crime on our system

And the list goes on – so thank you for contributing to another great year; and again Happy Holidays and safe travels for those of you that are leaving town.

Board Director Joins Citizens Advisory Council Holiday Meeting

During their Holiday Meeting on December 13, the Metro Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Members had the pleasure of hearing agency updates directly from Metro Board Member Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker. Director Dupont Walker thanked the CAC for their dedicated service, expressed the importance of their engagement, and encouraged them to stay involved to ensure their voices, collective inputs, and recommendations are heard by Metro. Each of the CAC Members also took a few minutes to ask their questions, highlight their backgrounds and experience on the Council to date and provided a brief recap of this past year of CAC activities and key agency-wide topics this group has deliberated on over this past calendar year. The CAC expressed interest to broaden their knowledge base and perspectives on key topics currently under consideration by the Metro Board so that they can continue to provide meaningful input, including on the topic of Congestion Pricing. Metro's Deputy Executive Officer of Communications, Anthony Crump, as well as Director of Metro Community Relations Jody Litvak, also stopped by to thank the CAC for their year of service.

There are currently 21 members on this State-mandated council that reflect 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 may nominate four public members to the CAC to serve at the pleasure of the appointing Board member. More information on the CAC may be found, here.



LA Metro in the Big Apple to Receive Best Communications Initiative Award

On December 19, Public Relations staffers Anna Chen and Joe Lemon were in New York City to accept The TransitCenter's inaugural "Best Communications Initiative" award for producing content that promotes better bus service and bus infrastructure. The TransitCenter, a foundation that works to improve transit in cities across the United States, specifically cited a tweet from Metro that went viral and included an aerial-shot video that showed how many more people a bus lane can move compared to a lane filled with private vehicles. The tweet received 630,000 views, was retweeted 2,200 times and received more than 5,600 likes on Twitter alone.

Anna and Joe also gave a presentation highlighting the best practices used by Metro's Communications Department to keep its social media streams populated with informative and eye-catching content. As Metro continues to roll out mobility improvements, it will be important for us to continue to find eye-catching ways to tell our story and why good transit matters. Metro's award winning Tweet of bus lane footage shot by drone can be viewed, <u>here</u>.



Metro Convenes Stakeholders to Discuss and Develop a Regional Clean Truck Initiative

As part of the development of its Goods Movement Strategic Plan, Metro's Planning team convened a major stakeholder forum to discuss the introduction of cleaner truck technology throughout the LA County highway system. Particular attention focused on the impacts on local communities—especially those along Interstate 710—caused by truck traffic serving the Ports of LA and Long Beach and regional warehouses, distribution centers, and logistics yards. CTC Commissioner Hilary Norton and SCAQMD Executive Officer Wayne Nastri, and former SCAQMD Board Member Dr. Joseph K. Lyou joined a working group representing the trucking industry, the ports, state regulatory agencies, equity-focused groups, truck manufacturers, utility companies, zero emission and near-zero emission technology advocates, universities, Councils of Governments, Caltrans District 7, Metro Board offices and Metro staff.

The meeting was the first in a series designed to explore the barriers and obstacles to implementing clean truck technology regionally, to identify existing plans and funding opportunities available, and ultimately to develop as part of the Goods Movement Strategic Plan a broadly supported, collaborative Regional Clean Truck Initiative that allows Metro and the region to secure funding and policy necessary to advance the introduction of clean truck technology in Los Angeles County. Many thanks go to Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director of the Gateway Cities Council of Government, for hosting this important event, and to Michael Cano, Akiko Yamagami, and Anna Lee in the Metro Office of Goods Movement for coordinating and leading this effort.



On The Move Riders Take a Holiday Tour

On Thursday, December 19, Metro Community Education's On the Move Riders Program led a group of new older adult riders on a Holiday Travel Training Tour using Metro. The goal of the tour was to provide participants with the confidence to travel to these destinations so they could later visit on their own with family

and friends to enjoy the holiday lights. The tour route led participants along the Metro Red and Purple Lines to two popular holiday destinations at Grand Park and The Bloc, with a lunchtime stop at the TASTE food court at Fig@7th. Along the way, the group was oriented to Union Station where they learned its history, the difference between heavy rail and light rail, platform and train safety, and how to use the TAP vending machines.



Cesar Chavez Bus Stop Improvements Project Begins Construction

On Friday, December 20, the Cesar E Chavez Av Bus Stop Improvements Project began construction of a new transit pavilion at the southeast corner of Cesar E Chavez Av and Vignes St. The highly used bus stop at Chavez/Vignes will be transformed into a new transit pavilion to improve the customer experience and strengthen connections to other modes of transit around the area. The transit pavilion will provide improved shelter for riders, real time transit information, lighting, Metro Bike Share, enhanced drought-tolerant landscaping and rainwater catchment.

The existing bus stop has been temporarily relocated across Vignes Street to the southwest corner of the intersection, closer to Metro Headquarters. Metro ambassadors have been assisting in informing riders about the temporary service change. The temporary bus stop is anticipated to remain until late Spring 2020 when construction is anticipated to conclude. The following Metro bus lines will be affected: 68, 70, 71, 770, 78, 79, 378. Learn more about the project <u>here</u>.

Procurement Postings

Filming Liaison (RFP)

Metro released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure the services of a Filming Liaison. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday December 20, 2019 through Monday, March 30, 2020.

The Metro Marketing Communications Department requires the services of an experienced liaison to work with film production companies, photographers and other entities that wish to use Metro owned properties for location shooting.

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

Sustainability Program Assistance Services (RFP)

Metro will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure Sustainability Program Assistance Services. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Tuesday, January 07, 2020 through, Friday, October 16, 2020. The selected proposer shall provide staff augmentation services to provide assistance to Metro staff in Metro's Environmental Compliance Services Department. The services required by Metro include, but are not limited to, assisting with the implementation of Metro's Environmental Management System (EMS) certification activities at Metro facilities, monitoring and coordination between the identified consultant contracts, training, program guidance goals to include the preparation of analyses, studies, surveys, investigations, modeling, predictions, and/or reports related to the sustainable operation and maintenance of Metro's transportation system, facilities, and support activities as outlined in the Scope of Services.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Daniel A. Robb Senior Contract Administrator at (213) 922-7074.

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

<u>Regional Connector: Street Restoration closures at 1st/Alameda in DTLA</u> Street restoration at the 1st St and Alameda St intersection is now scheduled to start January 10, 2020. Plan ahead as lane reductions and road closures will be in place through the summer, as this work will be completed in two stages, each lasting approximately four months.

This effort marks the transition into the final phase of construction for the Regional Connector and brings it one step closer to testing and revenue operation. To learn more, click <u>here.</u>

Purple Line Extension: Orange Grove Closure at Wilshire Blvd

Orange Grove Ave. south of Wilshire Blvd. and north of 8th St. will be closed for 8 months starting Friday, October 18. The existing sound walls will be extended west to surround the closure area, which is required to construct the Wilshire/Fairfax Station. Residents of Orange Grove Ave. will continue to have access.

Caltrans Interstate 5: All Construction Updates here.

"Some men see things as they are and ask 'why?' I dream of things that never were and ask 'why not?"

~ Robert F. Kennedy

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