

# CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

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Chief Executive Officer

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### **Metro Honors Small Business with Small Business Week Events**

Last Monday, I joined the Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department (DEOD) team for Day One of the Small Business Week series of events. The session, entitled "Real Talk: Metro, COVID-19 and Small Business Inclusion," was an opportunity to reassure the audience that our commitment to them is unwavering. Over 120 small business owners tuned in to the Live Stream with various questions and concerns. "Metro Honors Small Business Week" concluded on Friday with a closing session that featured a mini-version of *Meet the Primes* and a word of commitment and encouragement from Vendor/Contract Management Chief, Debra Avila.

The entire week focused on capacity building and involvement strategies. The purpose of this effort has been to energize and enlighten the community, while honoring and celebrating small business successes. The over 400 participants in the week gained valuable insight into Metro programs, "met" Metro executives and learned how to use Metro online resources. In the preceding weeks, staff conducted deep dive

workshops on contract requirements, relationship management, certification and other helpful tools for success. This slow time need not be wasted but used instead to learn all there is to know about LA Metro.

I want to thank VCM/DEOD staff, and everyone that participated this week. Most of all, I want to thank the small business community for staying the course with us, during these unprecedented times. We have 40 years of projects that can't be completed without them. Their success is our success and the success of this entire region – we are in this together.

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### **Construction Progresses on Both Ends of the Regional Connector Project**

Over the first weekend of May, the Regional Connector Transit Project reached a new milestone – the first section of deck panels on the project at the 1st Street and Alameda intersection have been permanently removed. This achievement signifies a transition point in the construction of the 1.9 mile underground alignment, bringing it closer to its 2022 project completion date. The deck panels served as a temporary roadway that allowed the excavation of the L (Gold) Line junction and station box to take place below. The second phase of deck removal and street restoration closures along 1st Street are in place through the end of August.

With a portion of the tunnel box roof completed on Flower Street, the west end of the alignment between 4th and 5th Street, has seen its first month of backfill material delivery, which will be spread over the tunnel box roof and will be used to protect utilities currently suspended from the temporary roadway. While deck panel removal and street restoration are still some time away, this work prepares the area for the eventual completion of at-surface construction.



On Thursday, April 30, DEOD conducted a virtual round-table meeting with the Jobs Coordinators performing work on Metro's construction projects. The main topic of the discussion was how to establish a collaborative approach to increasing female workers on Metro's construction projects. In addition, prime contractors working on Metro's mega projects were encouraged to continue enhancing recruitment efforts of female construction workers.

Metro's Project Labor Agreement/Construction Careers Policy has continually provided employment opportunities to the historically underserved population in construction. For more information regarding Metro's PLA/CCP, please visit [metro.net/pla](http://metro.net/pla).

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### **All Riders Must Wear a Mask on the Metro System**

Starting today, Metro is requiring all riders on buses and trains to wear face coverings to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Up to now, Metro had been recommending face coverings. The agency will enforce this requirement to the extent that is practical — and we will be considering the best way to enforce this rule going forward. In addition, Metro will be looking at ways the agency can help riders obtain face coverings while protecting our own supply of coverings that are needed for our employees. Metro will also commence an educational campaign to inform the public of the requirement to wear face coverings in public and on our system.

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### **Regional Connector Team Applauds the Little Tokyo Community Council's COVID-19 Response**

Businesses along Metro's transit system, serving 10 million people, are struggling like many others across America. Communities are responding to address the needs and the Little Tokyo Community Council's *Community Feeding Community* program is one extraordinary example. Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC) convenes area residents and organizational stakeholders to address urban, social and economic challenges with one voice.

In 2014, the Metro Regional Connector Transit Project became the funder and partner for what has become the Go Little Tokyo Marketing and Advertising campaign. Through website development, online and in-community events, LTCC with Community Arts Resources has addressed Regional Connector construction impacts by delivering a one stop location to tap into the full experience of Little Tokyo. Metro is a strong supporter of these mitigations designed for the community by the community.

With the advent of the outbreak, LTCC and partners James Choi (Café Dulce) and Nancy Yap (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics) launched a lunch and dinner service for hospitality workers and others hard hit by the pandemic. Businesses from Little Tokyo and the Arts District are commissioned on a rotating schedule to bring their specialties to Japanese Village Plaza for distribution, joining communities together to serve. Over 1,500 meals have been distributed. Hear about this and other unique programs serving those in need at [littletokyola.org](http://littletokyola.org).

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### **What's on Your Mind - Social Media Highlights**

This week, I want to highlight some kind words left as a comment on Metro's blog, [The Source](#). A regular rider who commutes between Eagle Rock and Burbank had this to say about Metro:

*Thank you Metro for keeping the bus service up and running during this ungodly pandemic that has affected the whole nation terribly. I totally depend on this service to go to work and back since the company I work for did not close, and expects us all to report to work everyday at 6.00 AM. I would have surely lost my job if Metro would've stop running because of the pandemic. I really appreciate the work of the bus operator who takes us to our destination and back!!*

*Metro would not be able to service the community without the bus operator! I travel from Eagle Rock to Burbank (since I work in Burbank) and I was afraid that I would be terribly late for work everyday due to the weekly bus schedule modification -- not the case. I use line 794 and it is right on time every morning at Fletcher Drive and San Fernando Rd. I always say "thank you" every time I board the bus and when I get off at my destination, simply, because I feel like it.*

*So, THANK YOU! THANK YOU METRO AND HURRAH FOR ALL BUS OPERATORS!!!!!!*

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## **Procurement Postings**

### Half Ton Pick-up Trucks (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure nine (9) half ton pick-up trucks. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, May 8, 2020 through Friday, August 21, 2020.

Metro is seeking a qualified vendor to supply nine (9) half ton pick-up trucks in support of Metro's operations. The vendor shall furnish, deliver, warrant each vehicle and shall also include all items/accessories required for the operational use of each vehicle. The vehicles shall be either a Ford F-150, GMC Sierra 1500, Chevrolet Silverado 1500 or approved equal. Award of a contract will provide a commitment from the supplier to ensure availability and on-time delivery on a Firm Fixed Price contract.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Aryani L. Guzman, Senior Contract Administrator at (213) 922-1387.

### Herbicide Application Services for Bus and Rail Right-of-Ways and Facilities (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure herbicide application services for Bus and Rail Right-of-Ways and Facilities. The procurement blackout period is expected to run from Wednesday, May 6, 2020 through Monday, August 10, 2020.

The herbicide application services are to support weed abatement throughout Metro facilities, Inactive Rights-Of-Ways (IROW), Metro Park & Ride (P&R) Lots, and specific bus and rail facilities. Bidder must hold in good standing a valid, current State of California Qualified Applicator License "Category C Right of Way", and an Agricultural Pest Control Advisor License "Category E Weed Control".

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Rommel Hilario, Principal Contract Administrator, (213) 922-4654.

### Kit - Insulation, Exhaust L9N Conversion, Xcelsior, Repower (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure Kits - Insulation, Exhaust L9N Conversion, Xcelsior, Repower. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Thursday, May 7, 2020 through Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

Metro is seeking a qualified vendor to supply Kits – Insulation, Exhaust L9N Conversion, Xcelsior, Repower to support Metro Bus Operations. Award of a contract will provide a commitment from the supplier to ensure availability as outlined in the Scope of Work on an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract basis.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Juelene Close, Sr. Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-1066 .

Kit - Electrical Harness Kits (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bid (IFB) to procure electrical harness kits. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, May 11, 2020 through Friday, September 25, 2020.

This procurement is for the purchase of electrical harness kits needed to upgrade the New Flyer Xcelsior bus fleet. Award of a contract will provide a commitment from the supplier to ensure availability as outlined in the Scope of Work on an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract basis.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Tanya Allen, Procurement Planning Administrator, at [allentm@metro.net](mailto:allentm@metro.net).

Kit - Tubing, Exhaust Flex Pipe (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bid (IFB) to procure Kits - Tubing, Exhaust Flex Pipe. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Wednesday, May 6, 2020 through Monday, August 31, 2020.

Metro is seeking a qualified vendor to supply tubing, exhaust flex pipe kits to support Metro Bus Operations. Award of a contract will provide a commitment from the supplier to ensure availability as outlined in the Scope of Work on an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract basis.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Juelene Close, Sr. Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-1066.

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

Purple Line Extension Project: K-Rail Work Zone Enclosures

Wilshire Blvd. between San Diego Way and La Jolla Ave. will be reduced to two lanes in each direction. Two K-Rail work zones will be implemented to support ongoing mitigation efforts in the Wilshire Blvd./Crescent Heights Blvd. area starting Monday, May 11, 2020, through Friday, August 14, 2020. Street parking will be restricted. To learn more, click [here](#).

Regional Connector: Street Restoration closures at 1st/Alameda in DTLA

Street restoration at the 1st St and Alameda St intersection is now underway and scheduled to last through August 31, 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 [here](#).

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

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"Success is not forever and failure isn't fatal."

~ Don Shula

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