

Monday, June 15, 2020

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Employee Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Community Unrest

On Tuesday, June 9, I joined Chief Civil Rights Officer Jonaura Wisdom and Executive Officer of Equity and Race KeAndra Cylear Dodds to host the first ever virtual Metro Employee Town Hall where many employees participated by asking questions live from their various locations, in a chat box on the video stream and via email. The intent was to provide a forum whereby employees can engage in a conversation about the current events, namely the protests related to the killing of George Floyd a couple of weeks ago.

Employees had an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments about how they felt both

about the events and the decisions Metro as an organization made during the weekend of May 30. It was a great exchange and set the table for future conversations. The following day, we released an official statement on Black Lives Matter and our commitment to fighting racial injustice that can be viewed on The Source.

A Change Must Come - A Gesture of Support from Metro

On Tuesday morning at 9am, Metro encouraged employees to take 8 minutes and 46 seconds of reflection to coincide with the beginning of the George Floyd Celebration of Life and Entombment in Houston, TX. Black Armbands were made available to Metro Operators and other field staff so that they had a meaningful way to commemorate the moment on the field. Those armbands were later swapped out to new ones with the #NoMoreNames as an expression of support for the movement to not add any more names to the list of people killed at the hands of police brutality, gun violence and other similar type killings perpetrated against Black people and people of color.



International Right of Way Association Names LA Metro Government Employer of the Year

I want to congratulate Metro's Real Estate team in our Countywide Planning and Development department for being awarded *Government Employer of the Year* by the International Right of Way Association (IRWA) – Los Angeles Chapter. Metro has had an integral relationship with IRWA during 2019 and with the historic launch of the largest public infrastructure program in the country, Metro is giving Right of Way (ROW) professionals an unprecedented amount of opportunity to advance the profession. Throughout 2019, Metro was able to provide keynote speakers at many IRWA events and will have over two dozen active projects in various phases that will continue to require the services of IRWA membership. Metro is providing over \$80 million in appraisal services and will require right-of-way acquisition specialists in over 1,500 acquisitions, and relocation specialists in over 1,000 relocations. This will create a source of revenue for the entire professional ROW community.



Decking for Planned Beverly Hills Subway Station Completed Seven Months Early

In a construction victory made possible by the countywide COVID-19 "Safer at Home" order earlier this year and subsequent street closure approval by the city of Beverly Hills, Metro has completed decking for the Purple Line Extension subway station at Wilshire/Rodeo seven months ahead of schedule. A three-and-a-half-block closure of both directions of Wilshire Boulevard between Crescent and El Camino Drives was officially reopened to traffic Sunday night, June 14 following two-and-a-half months of expedited subway station construction work.

During that time, Metro's contractor accelerated the installation of hundreds of steel beams called piles below Wilshire Boulevard. These piles provide the support structure for future excavation of the subway station box. The contractor then expedited decking, a construction process that entails excavating the street and replacing it with temporary concrete panels supported by large steel beams. The panels will serve as a temporary roadway that will allow traffic to continue above while construction work continues below.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the safer-at-home order, Wilshire/Rodeo decking was anticipated to be performed during weekend closures from August 2020 through January 2021. An excellent video of the full street closure and construction activities can be viewed on The Source.



I-105 ExpressLanes Project Releases Draft Environmental Document and Live Presentation

On Thursday, June 11, Metro and Caltrans hosted a live presentation on the I-105 ExpressLanes Project to share project updates and details on the Draft Environmental Impact

Report/Environmental Assessment of implementing ExpressLanes along the I-105 between the I-405 and Studebaker Rd in Norwalk. Following the presentation, participants engaged in a live Q&A session with staff to answer questions on various project related topics. These efforts complement a robust outreach and communications plan that Metro is currently implementing on this project that includes an online virtual open house at 105virtualforum.com.

The <u>Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA)</u>, <u>Project Report and Concept of Operations</u> for the I-105 ExpressLanes Project are now available for public review and <u>comment through Monday</u>, July 6, 2020.

Procurement Postings

Metro High-Rise Fire Safety Program and Training (RFP)

Metro released a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a qualified contractor to provide technical, consultancy and training services on an as-needed basis in line with the implementation of the High-Rise Fire and Life Safety (FLS) Program for Metro Gateway Headquarters. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, June 15, 2020 through Monday, August 24, 2020.

The scope of services to be provided will include ad hoc reporting, annual evacuation drill assistance, on-line training and certification management portal, updating the Metro Gateway Headquarters High Rise Emergency Response Plan, and creating as needed training materials. Eligible contractors must a have a valid Certificate of Fitness issued by the Los Angeles Fire Department

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Marc Margoni, Principal Contract Administrator at (213) 922-1304.

Safety Prescription Eyewear Program (RFP)

Metro will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure goods and services for the Safety Prescription Eyewear Program. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Tuesday, June 16, 2020 through Monday, August 24, 2020.

Metro is seeking a Contractor to provide safety prescription eyewear occupational optical goods to its employees annually on an as needed basis. Contractor shall be required to provide approximately 300 prescription safety optical eyewear to employees who are required to wear safety glasses in high hazard areas or while performing high hazard tasks.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Manchi Yi, Contract Administration Manager, at (213) 418-3332.

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.

"Only a man who knows what it is like to be defeated can reach down to the bottom of his soul and come up with the extra ounce of power it takes to win when the match is even."

~ Muhammad Ali

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6:30am - 7pm (Monday - Friday) 8:00am - 4:30pm (Saturday/Sunday)