


# CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS



**Phillip A. Washington**  
Chief Executive Officer

Monday, July 20, 2020

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### **Virtual Rally of National Public Transportation Agencies Calling on Congress to Deliver Up to \$36 Billion in Federal Aid**

On Tuesday, July 14, I was proud to participate in a virtual rally organized by the New York MTA to rally enthusiasm and call on the U.S. Senate to include emergency relief for transit in the next COVID-19 relief bill. To kick off the event, New York MTA chairman and CEO Patrick Foye said, “We are asking – insisting – that the Senate set aside \$32-36 billion for transit in the next COVID-19 emergency relief bill to offset the economic harm done by this crisis to our industry.” I spoke about how Metro and other transit agencies are simultaneously faced with higher costs due to COVID-19, while revenues have declined sharply.

Leaders of some of the nation’s largest public transit agencies participated in the event, including:

San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit, Denver Regional Transportation District, Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority; Sound Transit, New Orleans Regional Transit Authority, New Jersey Transit, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, and Capital Metro. I will keep you posted on our legislative efforts in the near term, but with the election just over three months away there is much uncertainty.

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### **Metro Certified Firms Workshop**

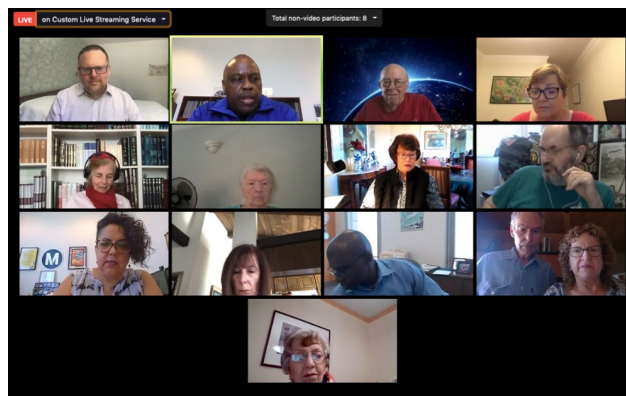
On Thursday, July 9, Metro Board Member Jacquelyn DuPont-Walker delivered opening remarks to nearly 100 contractors attending a workshop for Metro Certified Firms. The live-streamed event was a required pre-qualification to have a 1:1 matchmaking interview with the first of 5 Prime contractors working on Metro mega-projects. SKANSKA and Traylor are the first Primes to be part of the series and are planning to host contractors virtually on July 30.

In lieu of the annual *Meet the Primes* event, the five planned sessions will be focused on current opportunities that the Primes specify by NAICS codes only. The Project Labor Agreement, best practice, common mistakes, and the art of negotiations were issues covered at the workshop. Special thanks to Metro Executive Officer Paul Sullivan of Highway Programs, Simeon Terry, Diversity and Inclusion Vice President, Austin Commercial and the VCM/DEOD team for the invaluable insights to prepare contractors to do business with Metro and beyond.

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### **Captivating Conversations with Leo Baeck Temple**

On Thursday, July 16, I was invited by Rabbi Ross from Leo Baeck Temple to participate in his "Captivating Conversations" series on Zoom. Our personal one-on-one conversation, viewed by members of his synagogue, covered everything from my upbringing, how I see my role as an African American leader during this time of civil unrest triggered by the murder of George Floyd, and what the future holds for public transportation in our region. Leo Baeck Temple is a coalition member of LA Voice and One LA, long-time champions for Measure M and equitable public transportation in LA County. They have been valued community leaders and advocates for many years and I was honored to share my story and insights with Rabbi Ross and his congregation. You can watch the recording on Leo Baeck Temple's Facebook page [here](#).



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## Happy 30th Birthday to the Metro A Line (Blue)

Last Tuesday, July 14, 2020, Metro celebrated the A Line's 30th birthday. The A Line (Blue) opened to the public on July 14, 1990, marking the return of mass transit by train to Los Angeles for the first time since 1963. Since then, it has carried millions of people between Los Angeles and Long Beach, undergone a major facelift (New Blue Improvements Project) and continues to serve as a lifeline for those who need access to essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Take a look at the photos below from our Metro Library archives and click [here](#) to view the full blog post on The Source.



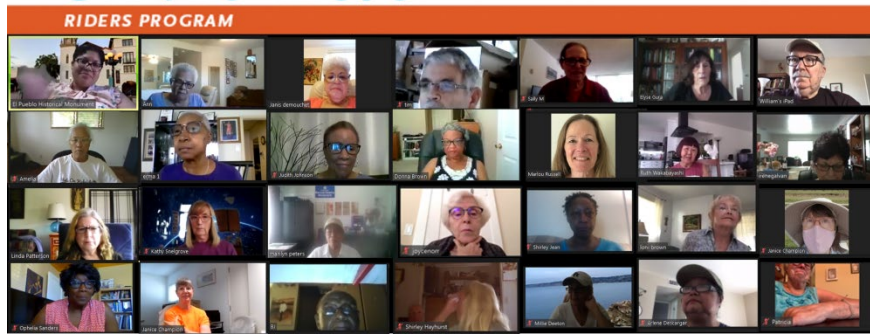
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## Guided Virtual Tours with El Pueblo Historical Monument and On The Move Riders Program

In partnership with El Pueblo Historical Monument, the On The Move Riders Program (OTMRP) is co-hosting a two part series of guided virtual tours for residents in each region of LA County. El Pueblo Historical Monument's presenters have created an interesting and interactive experience that is an excellent substitute for the in-person tours. This two part series is open to all older adults and creates an environment for OTMRP members and potential members to stay connected while "touring" LA in a different capacity.

OTMRP continues to educate and advocate for the use of public transportation for older adults, but encourages only essential trips at this time. On July 13, 2020, members explored "The Founding of Los Angeles" and learned about the "History of El Pueblo". The upcoming week of July 27 will cover "Exploring the America Tropical Interpretive Center". Please contact Lilly Ortiz at 213.922.2002 or [onthemove@metro.net](mailto:onthemove@metro.net) to RSVP for upcoming tours.

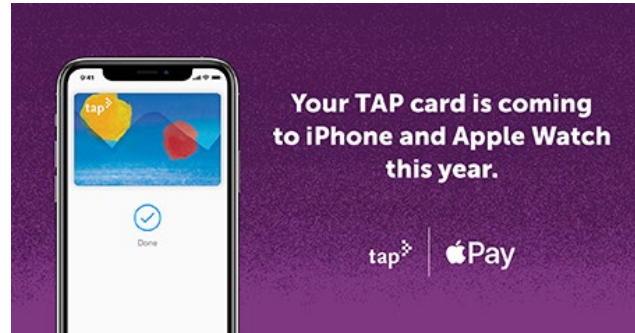
## On the Move



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### TAP cards will be available on iPhone and Apple Watch this year

Customers will be able to use their TAP card on iPhone and Apple Watch to ride on all 26 TAP agencies with Apple Pay this year. Customers will also be able to pay via on the new TAP mobile app. Be sure to check [here](#) for updates.



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### Procurement Postings

#### State Legislative Advocacy Services (RFP) - Small Business Prime

Metro released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure legislative advocacy services. **This solicitation is open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Thursday, July 16, 2020 through Friday, October 30, 2020.

Metro is seeking the services of a consultant(s) to provide State government advocacy services as described 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 Victor Zepeda, Contract Administrator at [zepedav@metro.net](mailto:zepedav@metro.net).

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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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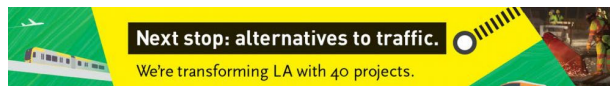
" We are one people with one family. We all live in the same house... and through books, through information, we must find a way to say to people that we must lay down the burden of hate. For hate is too heavy a burden to bear."

~ Rep. John Lewis

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