

# CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

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Chief Executive Officer

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### **Metro Deploys First Zero Emission Electric 60-Foot Bus on G Line**

In a Facebook Live Event, this morning I joined Metro Board Chair and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Metro Board Member and City of Los Angeles Council Member Paul Krekorian to officially deploy the first zero emission electric 60-foot bus on the popular G Line (Orange) in the San Fernando Valley. The 60-foot articulated buses are manufactured by New Flyer and use state-of-the-art technologies. The G Line (Orange) in the San Fernando Valley is the first line to receive these electric buses. Today's deployment is the first of 40 electric buses that will be put into service by the end of 2020. The Metro Board has directed that the entire Metro bus fleet be converted to zero emission electric buses by 2030 and the G Line should have all electric buses by the end of

this year.



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## **Metro Commemorates the 30th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act**

On July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the signing of the ADA marked a historical event affording individual with disabilities comprehensive Civil Rights protections.

This month Metro commemorates the 30th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act by highlighting our ongoing commitment to provide individuals with disabilities full and equal participation in all our transportation services. Supporting our vision of providing fully accessible services and facilities for all Metro customers, Metro has committed to going above and beyond the accessibility requirements of the ADA. For more information on Metro accessibility highlights, please click [here](#).



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## **TCAP Summer Internship Launch First Intern Radio Talk Show**

The Transportation Careers Academy Program (TCAP) Summer Internship partnered with Metro

Communication's Department to launch its first Intern Radio Talk Show; hosted on LA Trade Tech College's (LATTC) ZOOM Web-Conferencing Platform, Friday, July 24. This virtual event enabled the 116 student interns to meet face-to-face with former TCAP interns, MIP and ELTP participants who were successful in competing for a full-time job at LA Metro.

Jordan Vann from Communications did a stellar job in hosting the show. The event was kicked off by former TCAP intern, Tiyesha Watts, who graduated from the 2015 summer internship program. Tiyesha has received her Bachelor of Science degree in Public Policy and African American Studies from UC Davis and now works in the California State Capitol as a Senate Fellow for Senator M.D. Richard Pan. Tiyesha shared that her first professional job was at LA Metro and encouraged the current cohort of TCAP students to pursue their career objectives and to take advantage of every opportunity offered to them; because it will make a difference in their lives and career.

This event was one of the biggest highlights for the TCAP interns because they had an opportunity to hear first-hand career advice, coaching tips and the types of professional and/or job opportunities available to them in the transportation industry. Many thanks to all of the guest presenters who adjusted their schedules to be featured on the Radio Talk Show. Although this event was being broadcast virtually, it was rich in diversity of perspectives shared by the presenters and it hit every touch point in terms of what the students wanted to hear as they pursue their career aspirations during the pandemic.



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### **"Deep Routes" Shares Musical Histories of Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor in New Metro Art Digital Storytelling Series**

Metro Art collaborated with community driven radio and arts foundation, dublab, to create a special programming series with an accompanying visual stream of current geographies seen from the point of view of a Metro Bike.

[The Crenshaw Continuum](#) aired last week, exploring the vibrant, multi-generational creative community rooted in the Crenshaw District and Leimert Park. It featured firsthand recollections from the luminary figures who have shaped the area's progressive music, a genre-transcending movement rooted in the Black artistic experience. Celebrated filmmaker Ava DuVernay, saxophonist Azar Lawrence, and consummate connector Ben Caldwell are just a few of the featured voices. Each episode of Deep Routes is a multimedia dive into the various intersecting musical histories

embedded in the streets, buildings, and neighborhoods of Los Angeles – with each corresponding to a Metro Rail transit corridor currently under construction: Regional Connector, Purple Line Extension and Crenshaw/LAX. Listen to the latest episode, The Crenshaw Continuum, [here](#).



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## **\$11.5 Million Awarded for Metro Joint Development Projects**

I want to congratulate Metro's Joint Development partners on securing more than \$11.5 million in state funding for affordable housing projects on Metro-owned land. The money, which comes from the State's Infill Infrastructure Grant Program, will go towards the development of new infrastructure including upgrades to streets, roads, and transit linkages to support these projects.

The three Metro Joint Development sites include:

- \$2 million for [La Veranda](#), a 77-unit mixed-use affordable housing development in Boyle Heights being developed by Abode Communities.
- \$3.1 million for [Lorena Plaza](#), the 49-unit supportive housing complex planned by A Community of Friends next to the L Line's Indiana Station in Boyle Heights.
- \$6.4 million to the [Vermont/Santa Monica](#) project by Little Tokyo Service Center, which will build 185 affordable homes including 94 for individuals and households with special needs. The project, which will be under consideration at the August Board meeting, includes retail space surrounding an upgraded Metro plaza with new landscaping, lighting, signage and a Bike Hub.

Metro's share comes from a total of \$76 million awarded to LA County affordable housing projects. Thanks to the team for finding ways to bring more affordable housing to our system.

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## **Coffee and Conversations with Metro Program Management**

On Tuesday, July 21, 300 entrepreneurs joined a virtual "Coffee and Conversations" session to hear special guests from Metro Program Management senior staff discuss the "State of Metro Projects, Today, Tomorrow and the Future". Chief Program Management Officer Rick Clarke, and Senior

Executive Officers Tim Lindholm and Brian Boudreau, generously shared their time, insights and answers to inform and prepare the audience regarding current projects and post pandemic. The information and conversation was appreciated by our guests who had to bring their own coffee, however.

“Coffee and Conversations” is a bi-monthly workshop that introduces Metro Senior staff to the small business community in an informal atmosphere. These meet ups, hosted by Diversity Economic Opportunity Department/ Vendor Contract Management (DEOD/VCM), promote the transparency and engagement that is Metro culture, writ large. MetroConnect serves as system navigator to introduce Metro opportunities and programs that promote inclusion. Thank you to DEOD and kudos to Executive Officer Miguel Cabral and Chief of VCM Debra Avila, for these creative outreach strategies.

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### **Contractor Development and Bonding Assistance Program Completes its 2020 Construction Bidding & Estimating Training Academy**

On July 1, Metro's Contractor Development and Bonding Assistance Program (CDBAP) concluded its annual Construction Bidding & Estimating Training Academy with a graduation ceremony. This free seven-week academy was designed to guide certified small business owners through the process of determining estimates and developing bidding strategies to increase competitiveness when bidding on Metro construction projects.

Amidst the Safer at Home order due to COVID-19, the CDBAP successfully offered its' first fully on-line virtual Bidding & Estimating Training Academy. The academy began on May 20, 2020, and met every Wednesday evening for seven weeks. The academy featured curated specific curricula presented by industry experts from prime contracting companies. The training culminated with a mock bid competition and graduation. Special thank you to the men, women, and businesses who graciously donated their time, energy and resources to present to our class each week.

Tashai R. Smith, Deputy Executive Officer, and Keith Compton, Director with Metro's Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department were on-line to congratulate the academy graduates; We look forward to their participation on future Metro contracts. To view the academy participant contractor profiles, please click [here](#) and to view the graduation ceremony, please click [here](#).

For more information about Metro's CDBAP you can contact Merriwether & Williams Insurance Services by phone at (213) 258-3000 or email us at [mwisinfo@imwis.com](mailto:mwisinfo@imwis.com).



## Remembering Visionary Metro Artist Charles "Brother Boko" Freeman

The visionary and prolific muralist Charles “Brother Boko” Freeman passed away recently; and to honor his life and work Metro Art offered a look back at his project “[Know Thy Self](#),” created for Metro and displayed along a Gold Line Eastside Extension construction fence from 2005-2009. This temporary mural was a celebration of education and history that incorporated imagery of Mayan and Aztec icons alongside Indigenous Chumash, Tongva and Kumeyay peoples. Freeman created murals in Los Angeles for a variety of public and private commissions, a notable example of which is visible on the upper story of Bob Hope Patriotic Hall.

“With the idea that if you know where you came from you’ll know where you are going, I wanted to create a work that was about site specificity and learning.” -- Brother Boko



## Procurement Postings

### Voltage Regulator (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure voltage regulators. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Thursday, July 23, 2020 through Friday, October 30, 2020.

This procurement is for the purchase of voltage regulators required to maintain bus fleet operations and to avoid disruptions in service. Award of a contract will provide a commitment from the supplier

to ensure availability as outlined in the Technical Requirements 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).

#### Spin-On Oil Filters (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure spin-on oil filters. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Thursday, July 23, 2020 through Friday, October 30, 2020.

This procurement is for the purchase of oil filters required to maintain bus fleet operations and avoid disruptions in service. Award of a contract will provide a commitment from the supplier to ensure availability as outlined in the Technical Requirements 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).

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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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"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it."

~ Maya Angelou

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