



**Monday, August 31, 2020**

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### **Freight Rail Investment Partnership Kick Off**

Last week, I convened the first meeting of the Freight Rail Investment Partnership, which is one of the Early Action Initiatives of Metro's Goods Movement Strategic Plan. The Partnership includes key leaders from CalSTA, Caltrans, the Ports of LA and Long Beach, the freight railroads, Metrolink and Metro. It will develop a unified platform for priorities and policies to secure investment in our multimodal freight rail system that supports the national movement of goods, carries passengers on Metrolink and Amtrak, and serves as a backbone for the LA County economy.

We discussed the need to humanize infrastructure to make investment in our freight rail system more compelling, support equity, sustainability and workforce development goals, improve the County's economic competitiveness, and make the economic case to our federal partners for the national importance of investing in LA County's multimodal freight system. We also must work proactively to prepare for potential major disruptions to the system such as earthquakes and wildfires, as well as support upcoming opportunities

including the 2028 Olympics and the 2026 World Cup.

I was grateful to be joined by California Secretary of Transportation David Kim; Mario Cordero, Executive Director for the Port of Long Beach; Stephanie Wiggins, CEO of Metrolink; and executive staff from all of the agencies in the partnership. We will be working together in the coming months to develop the Partnership priorities and a collective plan of action. Thank you to Metro Chief Planning Officer Jim de la Loza and his Planning team (Laurie Lombardi, Wil Ridder, Michael Cano, Marie Sullivan, Akiko Yamagami and Sona Babayan) for their work to kick off this Partnership and to develop the Goods Movement Strategic Plan, which called for this initiative as an early action item.

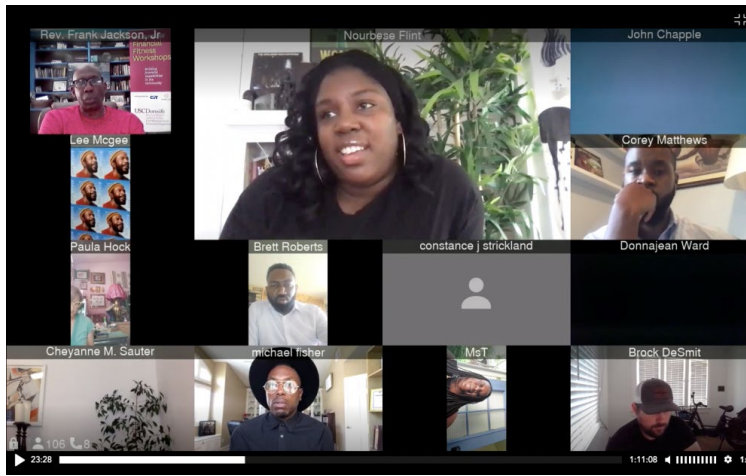


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### **Community Conversations with South Los Angeles**

On Tuesday, August 25, Community Relations continued the *Community Conversations* program with South Los Angeles. The virtual conversation called, “Histories, Triumphs, and Challenges: Stories from Our South LA” featured a panel of three community leaders – Nourbese Flint from Black Women for Wellness, Dr. Pastor Michael Fisher from Greater Zion Church Family, and Corey Matthews from Community Coalition. The panel discussion explored perspectives about how past and present challenges have inspired the South Los Angeles community to forge a path forward. With over 380 viewers from the public, this was an enriching dialogue about the region’s unique history and culture. To watch the recording, please click [here](#).

The next Community Conversations will be on Wednesday, September 30 at 12 p.m. with Sonya Blake, CEO for The Valley Economic Alliance. To learn more about Community Conversations, contact Michael Cortez at [cortezmic@metro.net](mailto:cortezmic@metro.net).



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## Completion of NextGen Virtual Public Hearings

Our NextGen Virtual Public Hearings were a great success. More than 350 people logged in and participated in all of the six public hearings that were held during the last two weeks. These hearings gave the public an opportunity to learn about the changes under consideration to tell us what they think about the proposed major service changes to Metro's bus system. Besides English, attendees were able to participate in Spanish, Mandarin, and Russian. The public comments received during the hearings were read aloud and are now part of the public record.

I would like to thank the NextGen team led by Senior Executive Officer, Operations, Conan Cheung, and the extraordinary public engagement effort for NextGen led by Senior Manager, Community Relations, Robert Calix that has brought us to this important milestone. I would also like to thank each of our Service Councils for hosting the hearings for their areas of the County. Staff is now reviewing the input received and working to finalize recommendations. Our Service Councils will consider the NextGen proposals at their September meetings and we anticipate presenting the recommendations to the Board of Directors in October.

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## Lactation Rooms Coming to Operating Divisions and Locations

Metro Women & Girls Governing Council (WGGC) has been working diligently with Operations to ensure that our plan for installing lactation rooms throughout our various Divisions is completed successfully and utilizes existing resources carefully and thoughtfully. Today, I am happy to report that in September 2020, we will begin the process of updating our divisions with lactation rooms. The team will provide clear instructions for use and maintenance of these rooms and we will report back as the project completes major milestones. I would like to acknowledge WGGC, Human Capital & Development, Operations, Communications, and others, for their support and cooperation as we work towards this effort.

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## Metro Recognizes Women's Equality Day

August 26 marked the 100th anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, securing for women the right to vote. To celebrate Women's Equality Day, Mount Saint Mary's University's Center for the Advancement of Women released, "The 2020 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California". This [report](#) provides the current state of women and girls in California and values the importance of becoming aware of these systemic injustices to help remediate and resolve these issues. For more information on Women's Equality Day, please click [here](#) to read an article from, The Times.

Metro commemorates all people who continue to work for gender equality. It is important to remember that our individual success is linked to the success of everyone around us. Although there is plenty of work to be done to meet women's equality and gender parity, we thank all of the women trailblazers at Metro for leading the way and continuing to identify areas for improvement.



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## Procurement Postings

### SBE Prime Program, Fence Repair and Maintenance Services (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bid (IFB) seeking a qualified firm to provide masonry walls, wrought iron, steel picket, welded wire mesh, Cochrane Clear Vu, and chain link fence installation, maintenance, and repair services for all Metro owned rail Right-of-Ways (ROWs), facilities and parcel properties. The procurement blackout period is expected to run from Thursday, August 27, 2020 through Friday, December 4, 2020.

Interested bidders must have a valid State of California C-13 (Fencing Contractor) and C-29 (Masonry Contractor) Contractor Licenses for the past three (3) years.

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.

### Transformer – Rectifier, Heavy Duty, 34500 Volts/589 Volts (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bid (IFB) to procure Transformer – Rectifier, Heavy Duty,

34500 Volts/589 Volts. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Thursday, August 27, 2020 through Friday, November 27, 2020.

Metro is seeking a qualified vendor to supply Transformer – Rectifier, Heavy Duty, 34500 Volts/589 Volts as outlined in the Technical Specifications in support of 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: LAUS Forecourt and Esplanade, I-5**

#### Los Angeles Union Station Forecourt and Esplanade Improvements Project

On-street work started for the Los Angeles Union Station Forecourt and Esplanade Improvements Project. Night time vehicle lane reductions and detours are expected on Alameda St, between Arcadia St and Cesar Chavez Av. and on Los Angeles St between Alameda St and 101 Fwy on-ramp. Work began on August 24, 2020 and is expected to continue for 3 weeks, Monday through Friday, 9pm -5am.

See the complete construction notice [here](#).

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

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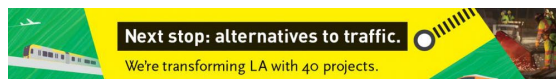
"I raise up my voice-not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard...We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back."

~ Malala Yousafzai

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