

CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

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Operations September 2020 Employees of the Month

Operations Department recognized employees from Transportation and Maintenance at this past Thursday's Operations, Safety, and Customer Experience Meeting as the department's September 2020 Employees of the Month.

The Transportation Employee of the Month is Carmelo Villareal, Train Operator at Division 11, A Line. Carmelo began his career with Metro in June 1999. Throughout the years he has worked at the Green Line, Gold Line and then found his home at the A Line. He was also selected to become a Rail Line Instructor and successfully completed his training in November 2017. He is a model employee and always displays an outstanding positive attitude towards his coworkers and management. He demonstrates a strong knowledge of train operations and is a valued source of information.

The Maintenance Employee of the month is Kenneth Chu, Maintenance Specialist Relief Leader at Division 20. Kenneth is very helpful and takes initiative with helping coworkers in trouble shooting complex maintenance problems. Kenneth's trouble shooting skills always pinpoint the root cause of problems, and he understands the nature of failure and repair for various types of equipment. All these traits enable him to make sound decisions on day to day operations of the Red Line maintenance shop. Congratulations to our Operations employees of the month, and keep up the outstanding work.



CNN International Interview on Fareless System Initiative

On September 16, I provided a brief live interview for CNN International's "Quest Means Business," a one-hour business show anchored by CNN's global business editor Richard Quest on, among others, Metro's Fareless System Initiative. I fielded a number of questions about Metro's plans to study the possible elimination of Metro fares and reported that Metro will evaluate local, state and federal funding opportunities, including re-prioritizing Metro funds to replace farebox revenues. The taped interview is now available on CNN's [YouTube Channel](#).



Mobility 21 Annual Summit: Generation Transportation

Last week, I participated in the virtual Mobility 21 Summit along with Metro Board Chair and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti who delivered the luncheon keynote address. I participated in the closing session panel: *Equity and Recovery – CEO's Roundtable* where we discussed our response to the challenges faced by countries around the world and in our own communities in Southern California. Specifically, challenges of experiencing the simultaneous consequences of a global pandemic and long-standing racial injustice. The panel included the leading transportation executives of Southern California who shared how they are dealing with the intertwined issues of equity and recovery during the ongoing emergency and throughout the coming year. I shared how transportation agencies have tremendous power to influence, instigate and inspire. Transit CEOs can do this through infrastructure investment, planning and land use policy, affordable housing, transit-oriented communities, employment and hiring, education and internship opportunities. I believe transit CEOs should be stepping into leadership voids and that there is no better time than now to do so.

Thank you to our regional transportation partners, Metro staff who participated and helped coordinate logistics and to the Mobility 21 team for another excellent summit.

Service Councils Voting on NextGen Bus Plan

Following the six public hearings last month, our Service Councils are now voting on the NextGen Bus Plan at their meetings this month. Last week, the South Bay and San Fernando Valley Service Councils each voted to approve the NextGen Bus Plan proposals for their areas. The remaining Councils will consider the changes proposed for their areas at their meetings this week beginning tonight:

- **San Gabriel Valley: Monday, September 21 at 5:00 p.m.**
- **Westside Central: Wednesday, September 23 at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Gateway Cities: Thursday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m.**

A link to stream each meeting will appear on the Metro Service Council page, [here](#), when the meetings begin. A recording will also be available on this page for anyone who is unable to view the live meeting.

Following these Service Council meetings, staff is finalizing their recommendations for the NextGen Bus Plan that are scheduled to be presented to the Board of Directors for their consideration in October.

Community Conversations with the San Fernando Valley

On Wednesday, September 30, Community Relations is hosting another Community Conversations program - this time with San Fernando Valley community leader Sonya Kay Blake. As CEO and President of the Valley Economic Alliance, Sonya's talk, "Main Street

San Fernando Valley: Sustainable Economic Futures" illustrates the past, present, and future development of Main Street commercial clusters of the San Fernando Valley and the rich diversity they bring to street life. This interactive exploration of the Valley's small business districts will invite participants to consider our shared heritage, appreciate our cultural assets, and join in strengthening our neighborhoods as we invite equitable and sustainable economic development now and in the future.

To register for the conversations, please click [here](#). If you would like to learn more about Community Conversations, contact Michael Cortez at cortezmic@metro.net.

Metro Supports Local Agencies' Grant Applications for Active Transportation

As part of Metro's Grant Assistance Program, 17 grant applications from 11 local agencies were submitted to Cycle 5 of the State Active Transportation Program (ATP) on September 15, 2020. The total funding request was \$190 million for projects valued at \$242 million. The project selection and application development process for ATP Cycle 5 spanned 9 months and involved consultant services and Metro staff from across Countywide Planning and Development.

Metro's Grant Assistance Program provides grantwriting services to projects that are seeking funding from the State ATP. Since it began in 2013, the Grant Assistance Program has resulted in \$234 million of ATP awards for projects valued at \$348 million. These awards support projects that help complete the Los Angeles River Bike Path, expand bike share, and strengthen first/last mile connections to transit. To select projects for grant assistance, Metro staff evaluates the potential of projects to support implementation of Metro's active transportation plans and policies, prioritizing assistance to local agencies with resource or technical limitations and projects that will benefit disadvantaged communities.

The California Transportation Commission will evaluate ATP Cycle 5 applications statewide, and adopt awards in March and June 2021.

Outreach Workshop for our Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise

On Tuesday, August 25, Metro's Contractor Development and Bonding Program (CDBP) hosted an Outreach Workshop for our Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) community. The workshop was held virtually via Zoom and featured a new recipient of Metro's bonding program.

Ron Escobar, owner of Escobar Construction, is certified as a DVBE and gave testimony to the benefit of Metro's CDBP program and how helpful Merriwether and Williams have been in assisting him to increase the capacity of his construction company. He also mentioned his gratitude to Metro for implementing and funding such a program and not just talking

about supporting small businesses at outreach events. He ended his presentation by saying, “Trust me! The program works!”

Over 60 small business contractors attended the DVBE outreach event which included presentations by Gene Hale, CEO of G & C Equipment Corporation, Merriwether & Williams, and Metro staff. Keith Compton, Director in Metro's DEOD, Capacity Building and Data Integration, provided attendees with information on how to do business with Metro, how to find Metro resources, and upcoming contracting opportunities. To view highlights of the Webinar, please click [here](#).

Thank you to staff for supporting this event and for reaching out to the DVBE community who has served and protected this great country. For more information about Metro's CDBP services, click [here](#), and to inquire about our next MetroConnect workshop, please click [here](#), or contact our office at (213) 258-3000.



Metro Recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 - October 15, traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latinx Americans as we celebrate heritage rooted in all Latin American countries. This is a month to reflect on the achievements, advancements, broken barriers and accomplishments made by Hispanic and Latin-Americans throughout American history. At Metro, we want to acknowledge the accomplishments made in transportation and infrastructure and recognize the many Hispanic and Latin leaders within our workforce. Metro is committed to Diversity and Inclusion – and is proud to recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month.



Procurement Postings

EGR Cooler Kit (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids to procure EGR cooler kit. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, September 18, 2020 through Friday, January 29, 2021.

This procurement is for the purchase of an EGR cooler kit needed to maintain the bus fleet and thus avoid disruption 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.

Turbocharger Assembly (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure turbocharger assembly. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, September 18, 2020 through Friday, January 29, 2021.

This procurement is for the purchase of turbocharger assembly needed to maintain the bus fleet and thus avoid disruption 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.

Construction Notices: LAUS Forecourt and Esplanade, Regional Connector, 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](#).

Regional Connector Transit Project - Partial Street Closure Central Av

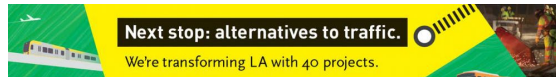
In place now, through mid-November 2020, is a partial closure of Central Av between 1st St and 2nd St to allow construction of the station's roof and street restoration as the Regional Connector Transit Project enters its last phase of at-grade construction. To view the notice of work click [here](#).

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

"I would like to be remembered as someone who used whatever talent she had to do her work to the very best of her ability."

~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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