

Monday, October 12, 2020

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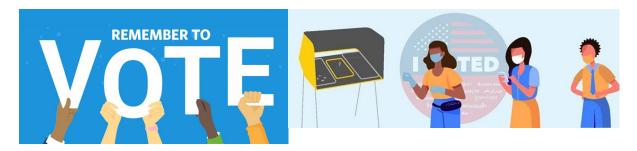
### Lakers Bring a Championship Back to Los Angeles

Congratulations to our Los Angeles Lakers and the Lakers organization. Following the longest and oddest NBA season in history, the Lakers have brought a Championship back to Los Angeles after a decade long drought. As anticipated, the city took to the streets to celebrate with an impromptu celebration hub at the Staples Center arena in Downtown Los Angeles. Operator and personnel safety is always a Number 1 priority for me and the leadership of our team. I want to sincerely thank all of our Metro staff who helped support the safety and movement of people –including our own operators – throughout the city during celebrations that took place late into the evening. Metro Operations, Communications, and Security and Law Enforcement efficiently worked together to reroute impacted buses and inform customers of impacts to train service near the Pico station. Congratulations again to the Lakers; let's send that momentum over to the Los Angeles Dodgers as they start Game 1 of the National League Championship Series today against

#### Metro Supports Free Rides on Election Day and Vote by Mail Drop off Boxes

Metro is encouraging riders to vote early and safely by using Vote by Mail drop-off boxes that are now in place at 19 rail and bus stations throughout Los Angeles County through Nov. 3. Moreover, Metro will be offering free rides on all Metro operated buses and trains on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. Union Station and El Monte Station will be used as official vote centers from Oct. 24 through Nov. 3 for voters who want to cast their vote early. The voting center at Union Station will be located in the Ticket Concourse in the west (Alameda Street) side of the station.

For more information on how to Vote by Mail, click here.



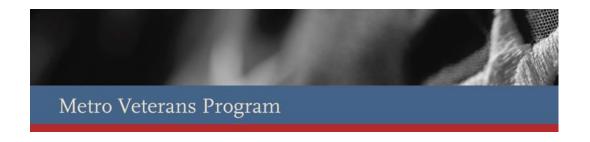
# Metro Veterans Program in Partnership with LA County Military and Veterans Affairs Supports Veteran Virtual Series-VBA

On Thursday, October 8, Metro Veteran Program Manager, Dennis Tucker coordinated efforts in our new workforce development series, in partnership with the Veteran Affairs (VA), to connect Metro Veterans with resources they might not be aware of, or taking advantage of through the VA. This was the second of a five-part series.

This partnership with Los Angeles County Military, Veterans Affairs, and Metro allowed instructors to present on various subjects customized specifically for Veteran Benefits and Entitlements. The series will continue throughout fiscal year 2021 and will include the following for the remainder of the fiscal year:

- National Cemetery Administration (NCA)-Jan 2021
- VA Home Loans/ CALVET Home Loan-Feb-2021
- VA Educational Benefits-Mar 2021

Bringing access to this information is part of Metro's commitment to Excellence in Service & Support including Veterans, their families, service-members past and present. I want to thank Los Angeles County Military and Veterans Affairs (LACMVA) in partnership with Metro, Bob Hope Patriotic Hall for their continued collaboration with these efforts.



### Public Review Period Open for the Final EIS/EIR for the East SFV LRT Project

Metro has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/FEIR) for the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Project and will accept public comment Friday, October 2 through Monday, November 2. Metro will host two virtual meetings on Wednesday, October 14 at 4:30 p.m. in English and on Monday, October 26 at 6:00 pm in Spanish for community members to ask questions about the FEIS/FEIR. The project also debuted a virtual platform and new video in English and Spanish. Links to FEIS/FEIR, the virtual platform and meeting details can be found here.

The planned 9.2-mile light rail transit line will connect the G Line (Orange) with the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station along Van Nuys Boulevard and the San Fernando rail right-of-way.

Following the FEIS/FEIR public review period, the Metro Board will consider certifying the FEIS/FEIR as soon as the November/December timeframe. Once the Metro Board certifies the FEIS/FEIR, and if it approves the project, the Federal Transit Administration would then issue a Record of Decision (ROD) for the project. The project's environmental review phase will conclude with these actions. The project is scheduled to begin construction in 2022 and is anticipated to open in 2028.









# Community Conversations with Sonya Kay Blake of the Valley Economic Alliance

On Wednesday, September 30, Community Relations hosted another successful Community Conversations with Sonya Kay Blake, CEO and President of the Valley Economic Alliance. With over 70 attendees, including many leaders from the San Fernando Valley, Sonya's talk, "Main Street San Fernando Valley: Sustainable Economic Futures" guided participants through the past and present, and laid out a vision for the future development of Main Street commercial clusters in the San Fernando Valley. Please click here to watch a recording of the conversation.

Community Relations plans to host more Community Conversations in November and December. To learn more about Community Conversations, contact Michael Cortez at <a href="mailto:cortezmic@metro.net">cortezmic@metro.net</a>.

### **Procurement Postings**

Vermont Transit Corridor Environmental Review and Conceptual Engineering (RFP) Metro released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a qualified architectural and engineering firm to environmentally clear the Vermont Transit Corridor, pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, October 12, 2020 through Monday, April 5, 2021.

Building upon the findings of the 2017 Vermont BRT Technical Study and the 2019 Vermont Transit Corridor – Rail Conversion/Feasibility Study, the Contractor shall conduct CEQA environmental studies in support of a Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and an optional task to prepare an environmental document, pursuant to National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). The Contractor shall prepare conceptual engineering design to a level and extent necessary to complete the environmental process. The Contractor shall advance three Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and three rail alternatives into environmental review, per April 2019 Board direction. The Contractor shall also undertake urban design efforts which includes improving access to stations and connectivity to a multimodal transportation network, as well as locate and orient stations towards transit supportive development and potential future joint development. This analysis shall support Metro's Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Policy goals.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Lily Lopez, Contract Administration Manager, at (213) 922-4639.

#### Construction Notices: Regional Connector, Purple Line Extension, I-5

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.

Purple Line Extension Project: Lane Reductions between La Cienega and San Vicente
Eastbound Wilshire Blvd. between Stanley Dr. and San Vicente Blvd. may be intermittently
reduced to a single lane to support ongoing station construction activities occurring between
La Cienega Blvd. and San Vicente Blvd. These lane reductions are anticipated to begin on
Tuesday, October 13. To view the notice of work click <a href="here">here</a>.

" Everything is habit forming, so make sure what you do is what you want to be doing."

~ Wilt Chamberlain

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### **Bus & Rail Transit information**

323.GO.METRO (323.466.3876) 6:30am - 7pm (Monday - Friday) 8:00am - 4:30pm (Saturday/Sunday)