

Monday, November 2, 2020

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Metro Opens New Union Station Patsaouras Bus Plaza

This past Sunday, Directors Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker and John Fasana joined Metro Chief of Staff Nadine Lee on Facebook Live to announce the Sunday, November 1 opening of the Union Station Patsaouras Bus Plaza. The new station will make it much easier and safer for J Line (Metro Silver Line) and other Metro and Foothill Transit bus riders to access Los Angeles Union Station in making their regionwide transit connections. The \$51-million transit project contains \$12.1 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding and is a vast improvement compared to the existing bus stop at the terminus of the El Monte Busway on Alameda Street. The new bus station features full Metro station amenities, including a shade canopy, TAP vending machines, seating, lighting, closed-circuit TV surveillance, electronic message signs, ADA-compliant elevators, stairs and a pedestrian bridge between the platform and Patsaouras Plaza.



County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Mark Ridley-Thomas Tours Leimert Park Station on Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project

On Thursday, October 29, I joined Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board member Mark Ridley-Thomas on a tour of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project's Leimert Park Station to see the progress of the future light rail line.

The Leimert Park Station is one of the three underground stations located in the Crenshaw District, which has long been the heart and soul of the L.A. region's Black community. Those with long memories may recall that the Crenshaw/LAX Line was originally envisioned as a bus rapid transit line. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas strongly advocated that the Crenshaw Corridor and connections to LAX merited a rail line. He also pushed for adding the Leimert Park Station to be added to the project. The rail line originally had stations at Crenshaw/Exposition and Crenshaw/Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

"I am grateful that the Metro Board had the fortitude and dedication to move forward with the Crenshaw/LAX Project and build this station in Leimert Park – the artistic and cultural center of African American life of Los Angeles," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, who is completing his third and final term on the Board of Supervisors. "This project is not just a transit station people will pass through, but a destination where riders of all backgrounds will experience the best that Los Angeles has to offer."

For more information, please click here.





On the Move Riders Program and the Regional Connector Construction Relations Team Collaborate for a Virtual Haunted Tour for Older Adults

This past Wednesday, October 28, older adults throughout Los Angeles County were treated to some Halloween chills and thrills at Metro's On the Move Riders Program's special event, "Do You Believe in Ghosts?" The attendees, most of whom were dressed for the occasion in their Halloween costumes, were taken on a fun and ghostly virtual adventure through Little Tokyo.

James Choi, owner of Café Dulcé in the Japanese Village Plaza, showcased their seasonal offerings and demonstrated how to make a delicious, autumn-inspired Apple Milk Tea. Featured guest speaker Bill Watanabe, from the Little Tokyo Historical Society, took the audience on a tour of the East West Players Theater. Much to the delight of the guests, Bill shared stories of the theater's paranormal encounters and of other apparitions reported to still be roaming throughout Little Tokyo. This fun-filled virtual experience was made possible with the collaboration of the Regional Connector Construction Relations team.

For more information about On the Move Riders Program, connect with Lilly Ortiz at 213-922-2299.



Metro's Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department Hosts the California Air Resource Board

On Tuesday, October 27, eighty small business truck owners registered for Metro's Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department "Lunch and Learn", cohosted with the California Air Resource Board (CARB). The trucking business realm is diverse and it is vital that they stay informed about rules that govern their interaction with Metro and the Prime

contracting community successfully.

Vendor Contract Management/DEOD has been aggressive in their effort to educate and recruit small business despite COVID-19 or other impediments. Special thanks to CARB's Elizabeth White with OnRoad Implementation Oversite, Johanna Levine with Zero Emission Infrastructure, and to Abbigail Brown with CPM Logistics. The presentation and upcoming events are posted on Metro.net/Connect, as are all the workshops that focus on small business involvement with Metro.

Procurement Postings

Graffiti Abatement Services for Bus and Rail (RFP)

Metro released a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking the services of a qualified firm or firm(s) to provide graffiti abatement services through the use of chemical removal agents, rags, pressurized hot water, and paint out methods throughout Metro bus and rail facilities. This service has been split into the three (3) geographic regions as detailed in the RFP. The procurement blackout period is expected to run from Wednesday, October 28, 2020 through Friday, April 2, 2021.

Metro requires all its facilities to be kept clean and free of graffiti. In accordance with Metro's long-lasting practice of zero tolerance towards graffiti, all accessible graffiti must be removed within one (1) business day of being reported and non-accessible graffiti must be removed expeditiously upon securing track access and support. Removal of graffiti from all Metro facilities is necessary in order to alleviate its negative visual impact on system patrons and the public at large.

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 at (213) 922-4654.

Consolidated Audits (RFP)

Metro released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure consolidated audits services. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Wednesday, October 28, 2020 through Monday, May 24, 2021.

Metro's Management Audit Services Department is seeking the services of two (2) external, independent CPA firms to perform financial and compliance audits to provide assurance that recipients of subsidies included in the Consolidated Audit are adhering to the statutes of each applicable funding source and that operations data used to allocate funds is fair and in accordance with Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) guidelines. Metro, as the Regional Transportation Planner for Los Angeles County, has fiduciary responsibility to help ensure jurisdictions, operators, and program administrators receiving funds for transportation related projects are in compliance with the applicable statutes, rules, regulations, policies, guidelines and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Greg Baker, Principal Contract Administrator at (213) 922-7577.

I-5 N Capacity Enhancements Project (IFB)

Metro will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure all labor, equipment, materials and all other services necessary for widening interstate I-5 North between the State Route 14 Interchange and Parker Road along with Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) improvements between the Interstate 405 and Interstate 210 (Project). The Project is in the City of Santa Clarita and the unincorporated area of the Los Angeles County. It covers approximately 17 miles in total, with 13.6 centerline miles of median widening to accommodate one HOV lane in each direction from north of SR-14 to just south of Parker Road interchange.

It also includes outside widening for auxiliary lanes at various locations between SR-14 and Parker Road to enhance operation and safety. It also implements ITS improvements, including count stations, closed-circuit television (CCTV) and ramp metering. The Project Labor Agreement/Construction Careers Policy will not apply to this Procurement. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, November 6, 2020 through Friday, February 26, 2021.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Rafael Vasquez, Principal Contract Administrator at (213) 418-3036.

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: K-Rail Work Zone at Wilshire Blvd./San Vicente Blvd. The K-Rail work zone within the center lanes of the Wilshire Blvd./San Vicente Blvd. intersection is anticipated to remain in place through December 2020. The enclosure will support ongoing tunnel and mitigation work underneath Wilshire Blvd. All left turns within the Wilshire Blvd./San Vicente Blvd. intersection will be closed while the K-Rail is in place. To view the notice of work click here.

Caltrans Interstate 5: All Construction Updates here.

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