



**Monday, February 1, 2021**

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### **Celebrating Excellence in the Workplace All-Hands and Awards Ceremony**

Thank you to all who participated in our first virtual Celebrating Excellence in the Workplace All-hands and Awards Ceremony. Last Friday's event was our sixth year hosting the ceremony with this year's live stream reaching an attendance of nearly 1,200 employees. Celebrating Excellence is our annual employee recognition event recognizing employees for exhibiting excellence in service and support in several categories.

In November 2020, employees from across the agency were invited to nominate their coworkers for recognition. In total, over 500 employees were honored in the ceremony — a record for the program. Many congratulations to all who were nominated and thank you to everyone for your hard work and dedication to our agency. Special thanks to Metro Board Chair and Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti for his welcoming remarks and to the project

managers for this year's event: Joanne Peterson, Nick Arevalo-Parrish, Jose Ramirez, and Melo Reyes. Special thanks also to the cross-departmental production team comprised of HC&D, ITS, Communications, Operations, SSLE, and our friends in the Metro Express Band. Reimagining the show to maintain the integrity of the celebration while observing pandemic safety protocols by going virtual was not an easy task.

I am very moved by the fact that despite the challenges of the pandemic, we as a Metro family continue to be invested in recognizing each other for our excellence while providing essential services to our communities. A recording of the event is forthcoming.

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### **We Welcome Two New Metro Board Members**

On Thursday, January 28, we welcomed two new Metro Board Members at our Regular January Board of Directors Meeting. Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell and Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval were officially sworn-in and took their seats on the 14-member Board that oversees our agency. Director Mitchell replaces former Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas who was elected to the L.A. City Council in November. Director Sandoval replaces Duarte Councilmember John Fasana, who retired at the end of 2020 following 27 years as a Metro Board Member.

2020 was a tumultuous year in the history of Metro and the world. I am grateful for the steady leadership, collaboration, and dedication of Directors Fasana and Ridley-Thomas. Their contributions helped Metro weather the storm and put us on a solid path to recovery. Metro has big challenges ahead, as well as tremendous opportunities, and I am looking forward to harnessing the talent and vision of our newest Directors to advance and enhance mobility in LA County.

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### **FTA Environmentally Clears East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Project**

Friday, January 29, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) granted Metro a Record of Decision (ROD) for the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Project, officially certifying that the project has satisfied all federal guidelines for environmental analysis and making it eligible for federal funding opportunities. The 9.2-mile project is planned to connect the Van Nuys Metro "G" (Orange) Line Station with the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station. The line will be built in segments with major pre-construction work to begin later this year on the first 6.7-mile segment between the "G" Line in Van Nuys to San Fernando Road in Pacoima. Metro will continue to study the second segment after receiving new stakeholder comments during the Final EIS/EIR's public review period from the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) and the City of San Fernando.

Congratulations to the Mobility Corridors team in Metro Countywide Planning for managing the successful state and federal environmental review process, as well as the many departments who supported the final steps in the process, including: Strategic Financial

Planning, First/Last Mile Planning, Real Estate, Program Management, Regional Rail, Community Relations, Public Relations, Government Relations, and Marketing. The close collaboration of this multi-departmental team kept the project on schedule in 2020 and contributed to the successful completion of this critical project milestone. I would especially like to recognize Planning Project Manager Walt Davis, who has overseen the Project since 2011 and will retire from Metro at the end of March after 28 years with the agency.

The project will officially begin major construction in 2022 and is scheduled to open by 2028. Metro Media Relations issued a press release earlier today.



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## **Metro Hosts Energy Resiliency Summit**

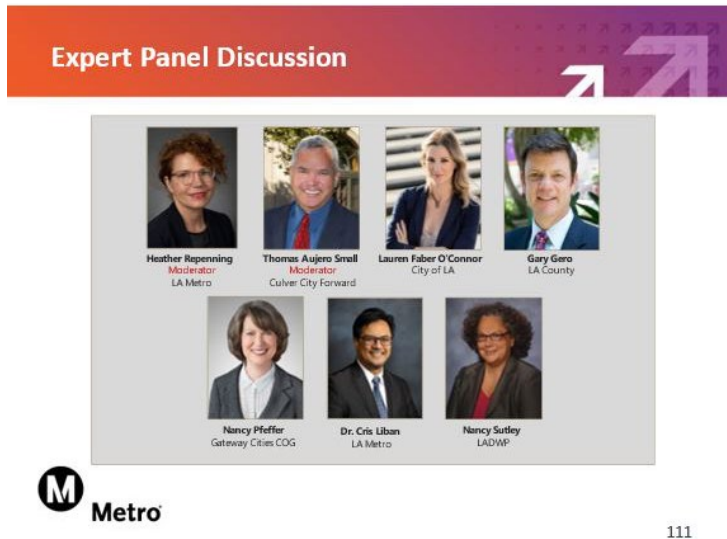
As part of our [Energy Resiliency Series](#), Metro hosted the Energy Resiliency Summit on Wednesday, January 27. The Summit, held virtually, was the culmination of a three-part event series organized by Metro's Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Department. The purpose of this series was to explore whether Metro can "be up while the grid is down" and help shape a long-range energy resiliency strategy for Metro and the region.

I was proud to deliver opening remarks at the virtual Summit and highlight our commitment to creating resilient transportation solutions in LA County to advance regional prosperity and equity. The Summit featured captivating presentations from leading firms on cutting-edge energy resiliency solutions as well as keynote addresses from Metro's Chief Sustainability Officer, Dr. Cris Liban, and David Hochschild, Chair of the California Energy Commission.

A major highlight of the event was our expert panel discussion featuring top sustainability and climate action leaders from across the region including representatives from Metro, the City of LA, LA County, LADWP, and Gateway Cities COG.

The series supports the ambitious goals outlined in our bold, comprehensive sustainability strategic plan – [Moving Beyond Sustainability](#). This plan recognizes that Metro provides a lifeline to many in our region and that we must be able to ensure the resiliency of the energy systems that power our buses and rail system. This series moves us forward as we work to ensure continuity of operations and that electrification can be successful as a strategy to combat climate change.

For more information, resources or to view the recording of the Summit, visit the [Energy Resiliency webpage](#) or email us at: [energyresiliency@metro.net](mailto:energyresiliency@metro.net).



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## DEOD Hosts Transit Vehicle Manufacturers Workforce Roundtable

On Tuesday, January 26, Metro's Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department (DEOD) in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services (WDACS) hosted a virtual roundtable with Metro transit vehicle manufacturers (TVM). The event provided transit vehicle manufacturers the opportunity to learn about Metro Workforce Initiative Now – Los Angeles (WIN-LA) and other workforce services available in Los Angeles County.

DEOD staff were excited to create this partnership with Los Angeles County WDACS and to ensure that the transit vehicle manufacturers have all the necessary tools and resources in fulfilling their disadvantaged hiring commitments.

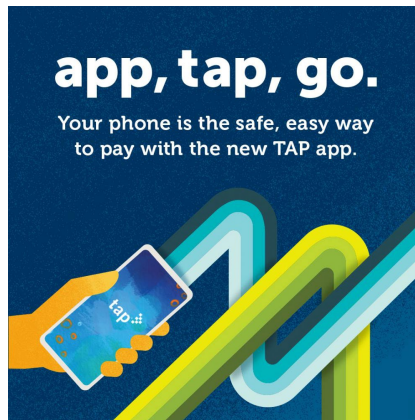
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## The TAP App is Now Available on iPhone and Android

The TAP department is excited to announce that the TAP app is now available for Android phones. Both iPhone and Android phone users can download the TAP app for a safe and easy way to pay for their TAP fare on bus and rail. All TAP riders, including Reduced Fare and LIFE, can enjoy several benefits with the TAP app, which include: the ability to use their phone to tap and pay, buy fare for [26 TAP transit systems](#), manage their TAP account, and use Trip Tools to view real-time bus and train arrivals to plan trips throughout LA County. Several TAP transit systems are collecting fares again, and as more systems resume fare collection, the TAP app will be an important tool in helping our customers travel throughout LA County in a convenient and contactless way.

The TAP app is now available on Google Play and the App Store (Search: TAP LA). Please

click [here](#) to learn more. Stay tuned for more information on how to transfer your Metro Employee badge/TAP card to your phone.

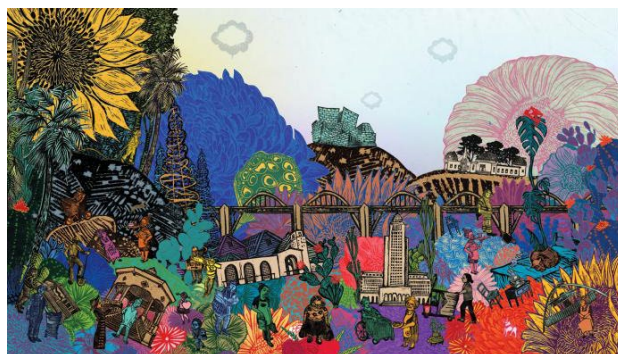


### **Metro Art Staff Spur Creative Reimagining at TRB 100th Annual Meeting**

Last week, Metro Art staff were invited to present ways in which Metro is using the arts to respond to COVID-19 and systemic inequities that have become heightened during the pandemic at the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) 100th Annual Meeting. The popular session was featured on three 'curated picks' and 'spotlight' lists.

Maya Emsden, Deputy Executive Officer, Arts & Design, shared artworks and cultural programs developed in response to recent Board directives to Uplift the Human Spirit. Through Metro Art, which called on Metro to champion artistic experimentation and contribute toward reimagining transportation in a way that is responsive to the issues and concerns of our time.

The panel session was organized by the TRB Passenger Intermodal Facilities Committee in collaboration with the Art & Design Excellence in Transportation Subcommittee. Chaired by Dr. Zipporah Yamamoto, Director, Metro Arts & Design, the subcommittee researches and promotes best practices regarding arts and design in transportation in order to foster knowledge sharing and innovation. The session attracted over 100 global attendees and included presentations by arts and design colleagues with NY MTA, BART, MNDOT, CATS, Sound Transit and Smart Growth America.



### **SILVER LININGS**

Envisioned by Artist  
STEPHANIE MERCADO

"The valuable services provided by essential workers and the power of arts and culture are heightened during challenging times."

Visit [metro.net/art](http://metro.net/art)



### **Commendation for Metro Freeway Service Patrol**

I would like to share with you that I received a letter this month commending our Metro Freeway Service Patrol (FSP). A FSP truck operator, Mr. Juan A., was commended by Ms. Johnson and her mother who suffered a blown-out tire and became stranded on the shoulder of the 134 East Freeway in Burbank. They contacted AAA as soon as they pulled over, but were thrilled to have Juan from our FSP fleet on the scene before AAA arrived to help change their tire. She stated that she and her mother are grateful for Juan's helpfulness and kind-hearted attitude and that he made this small inconvenience a pleasant experience. This is a welcome reminder of this great service Metro provides to assist motorists on our LA County freeways.

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## **Procurement Postings**

### Reverse Osmosis, In-Line Filtration and Bottle Water Service (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bid (IFB) seeking a qualified firm with the capacity to provide Reverse Osmosis (RO), In-Line Filtration Systems (ILFS) and Bottled Water Services for Metro facilities throughout Los Angeles County. Metro's transit facilities include but are not limited to bus divisions, terminals, rail divisions, train stations, customer service offices, and bus lay overs. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, January 25, 2021 through Monday, April 26, 2021.

This contract shall require all existing equipment and dispensers to be completely replaced with new systems, dispensers and storage tanks from point of connection. All plumbing work for building water and waste service lines will be done by others.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Marc Margoni, Principal Contract Administrator at (213) 922-1304.

### Graffiti Survey and Abatement Services – Metro HQ, USG, and Surrounding Areas (IFB) - Small Business Prime

Metro released an Invitation for Bid (IFB) seeking a licensed Contractor to provide graffiti surveys and abatement services for the Metro Headquarters, Union Station East Complex, and surrounding areas. **This solicitation is open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement blackout period is expected to run from Thursday, January 28, 2021 through Friday, March 26, 2021.

Metro requires its transit and administrative facilities to be kept clean and free of graffiti. Removal of graffiti from these areas is necessary in order to alleviate its negative visual impact on system patrons and the public at large. Methods of removal of graffiti may include, but are not limited to, paint-outs sandblasting, chemical applications and pressure washing for these Metro buildings.

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.

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

### Regional Connector Transit Project - Historic Broadway Station Street Restoration

Regional Connector Constructors (RCC) will implement an extended closure of 2nd St between Spring St and Broadway for deck removal and street restoration as early as October 30, 2020 through Summer 2021. To view the notice of work click [here](#).

### Purple Line Extension Project: Southbound San Vicente Blvd. Directional Closure

On Friday, January 29, and continuing through Monday, February 1, southbound San Vicente Blvd. at the intersection of Wilshire Blvd. may be closed to through traffic. The travel lane from southbound San Vicente Blvd. to westbound Wilshire Blvd. will be maintained. A detour route will be in place over the duration of each weekend closure. To view the notice of work click [here](#).

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

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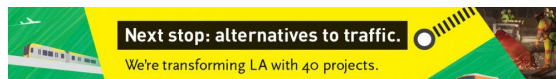
"Dedication sees dreams come true."

~ Kobe Bryant

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[Press Room](#) | [Project & Programs](#) | [Meeting Agendas](#) | [Riding Metro](#) | [Metro Library](#)

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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)

Sent to:

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