



Monday, March 29, 2021

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SMART Mourns the Loss of Former General Chairman James A. Williams

I received unfortunate news today and want to acknowledge the passing of former General Chairman of SMART (formerly UTU), James A. Williams. Mr. Williams was a strong leader respected for his integrity, keen sense of fairness and peace, and who cared very deeply for his Union brothers and sisters. Since his retirement in May 2015, Mr. Williams stayed in contact with union leadership always asking about Metro staff and caring about the well-being of union members.

He started as a Bus Operator on February 5, 1966 for LA County Rapid Transit District (RTD), became Local 1564 Vice Chairman in 1973, Local 1564 Local Chairman in 1974, General Chairman for UTU/SMART GO875 in 1996 and finally retired May 29, 2015. He will be missed by many. On behalf of Metro, I send my condolences to the friends and family of Mr. James A. Williams.



Connecting with the Crenshaw Line Community

Last Wednesday, I had an opportunity to connect with residents, churches and business owners along the new Crenshaw Line and have a thoughtful discussion about the project. I also wanted to personally thank them and the entire community for their patience and partnership over the years of construction of this rail line.

This conversation was part of our ongoing commitment to keep the community engaged and informed as we wrap-up construction on the new rail line. The Crenshaw and Inglewood communities as well as Los Angeles County taxpayers deserve a project that is safe and reliable and, quite frankly, is nothing short of excellent. We are relentlessly pursuing that goal and will require the contractor to do all work as specified. In short, we won't settle for less.

We appreciate the continued patience and support of the communities along the Crenshaw Line and we look forward to delivering a first class project with tremendous mobility benefits for the county.

Westside Purple Line Extension Reaches a Milestone

Construction of the Purple (D Line) Extension's first section reached another milestone this month when the second tunnel boring machine reached Wilshire/La Cienega Station in Beverly Hills. Tunneling is now complete on the four-mile section that runs between Wilshire/Western Station and Wilshire/La Cienega. We have also fully excavated the three new stations that will be located at Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega. This means that Metro successfully tunneled through the challenging and gassy soils of the Miracle Mile — and we did it safely.

The subway extension is one of four Metro Rail projects that are under construction — and all four have made good progress in the last year in spite of the pandemic. Tunneling is underway on the second subway section that will include stations in downtown Beverly Hills and Century City.

Meeting to Discuss Industrial Park for Rail Manufacturing

I have mentioned before that Metro is seriously considering – and reviewing all of our options – to make LA County home to our own industrial park for rail manufacturing. We envision a complete facility where American rail cars will be manufactured, assembled, and operated on test loops all on one campus.

I am pleased to inform that we have been in contact with the Transportation Technology Center, Inc. (TTCI) out of Pueblo, Colorado who conducts the research, testing, development, standards and training organization for the global rail industry. They are home to numerous test tracks and laboratories. TTCI expressed strong interest in Metro's work to establish an industrial park to support rail manufacturing. Metro is convening a group of stakeholders including the County of Los Angeles and TTCI representatives to move this conversation forward.

Metro Community Education Hosts Teacher Informational Workshops

Last week, Metro's Community Education (MCE) hosted two Virtual Teacher Informational Workshops for K-12 grade teachers interested in expanding their curriculum through MCE's fun and interactive virtual programs. This includes virtual tours of Union Station, the B Line and Transit Safety Workshops. The informational workshops gave teachers access to MCE's online resources for their classroom and created a forum for teachers to ask questions to staff. MCE continues supporting partner schools in ways that are beneficial and impactful to teachers, students and parents.

The screenshot displays the Metro Community Education website with three main sections:

- Virtual Programming:** Features three highlighted programs:
 - TSP Workshop:** Includes Line Specific Information (A, E, L Rail Lines), Train Safety, and Utilizing the Metro System.
 - Union Station Tour:** Includes History of Union Station, Transit Located at Union Station, and Future of Union Station.
 - B (Red) Line Destination Tour:** Includes Overview of Metro System, Specific Destinations along B – Line, and How to Ride Metro.
- Outreach Opportunities:** States "Metro can participate in the following:" and lists:
 - Career Days
 - Open Houses
 - Parent Workshops
- Online Learning Resources:** Divided into two columns:
 - Grades 1-5:** Includes Safety Kids Videos, Take the Quiz!, Activity Booklet, Coloring Sheet, and Fortune Teller.
 - Grades 6-12:** Includes Safetyville The Game, Safetyville The Song, Safetyville The Quiz, Make The Right Choices!, Metro Safety Squad, and Even a Zombie Knows.

Small inset images show virtual workshop sessions with participants and staff.

Procurement Postings

[Conduit Infrastructure for Wi-Fi Expansion - Divisions 11, 21, and 22 \(IFB\) - Small Business](#)

Prime

Metro will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure Conduit Infrastructure for Wi-Fi Expansion - Divisions 11, 21, and 22. **This solicitation is open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, April 2, 2021 through Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

Contracted services are needed to install new conduit from existing building communication rooms to existing light poles and to add new poles at Rail Divisions 11, 21 and 22 to support the Connected Facilities Capital Projects (improve / expand Wi-Fi in yards & indoor).

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Josie Mellen, Contract Administrator at (213) 922-1105.

Kit – Insulation Exhaust, Piping and Wiring (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure tubing flex pipe kits. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, March 29, 2021 through Wednesday June 30, 2021.

This procurement is for the purchase of insulation kits needed to repower the New Flyer Xcelsior with a Cummins L9N ISLG Engine. This insulation kit will protect the engine components and wiring from heat damage. Award of a contract will provide a commitment from the supplier to ensure availability at 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.

Metro Green Line Traction Power Substation Batteries Replacement (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure traction power substations batteries for Metro's Green Line. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Wednesday, March 24, 2021 through Friday, August 6, 2021.

Metro is seeking a vendor to supply traction power substation batteries for Metro's Green Line for nineteen (19) stations to support Metro's operations. The vendor shall remove, install, deliver, commission, and warrant each battery and shall also include all items/accessories not specified but required for the operational use of each substation. The eighteen (18) one (1) bank of GNB Absolyte IIP Model 50G07 Batteries and one (1) bank GNB Absolyte IIP Model 90G09 batteries or approved equal. Award of a contract will provide a commitment from the supplier to ensure availability at a fixed, competitive price.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Aryani L. Guzman, Senior Contract Administrator at (213) 922-1387.

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

Regional Connector Transit Project - Closure of Temple St. for Alameda Tunnel Box

Regional Connector Constructors (RCC) implemented an extended closure of Temple St between Alameda St and Garey St for the construction of the Alameda Tunnel Box. The 24/7 closure began on Friday, January 29, 2021 and will continue for approximately six months. To view the notice of work click, [here](#).

Purple Line Extension Project: Utility Relocation on Ashton Ave and Midvale Ave

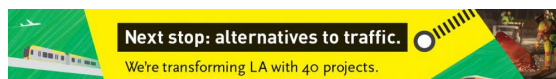
Metro contractors will conduct utility relocation for the sanitary sewer lines on Wilshire Blvd., Westwood Blvd., Ashton Ave., and Midvale Ave. in preparation for the Purple (D Line) Extension Section 3 project. Work is scheduled to begin on February 10, 2021, and will take approximately 2 months to complete. To view the notice of work click [here](#).

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

"Preservation of one's own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures."

~ Cesar Chavez

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6:30am - 7pm (Monday - Friday)

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