

Monday, April 12, 2021

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Introducing Metro's Next Chief Executive Officer

On Thursday, April 8, I joined Metro Chair and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Metro Vice Chair and LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Metro Second Vice Chair and Glendale Councilmember Ara Najarian and several of our Metro Board Members to officially announce LA Metro's next Chief Executive Officer (CEO). With great satisfaction, I was proud to welcome current Metrolink CEO and former Metro Deputy CEO Stephanie Wiggins back to take the helm here at Metro. I leave this agency knowing it will be driven with great leadership between Stephanie and the Board of Directors, building on the success of Measure M and the list of projects and programs we have put in place over the past 6 years under my leadership. Stephanie understands our vision for a more equitable, accessible and balanced transportation system. She will lead this agency with tenacity as she jumps right into urgent items such as COVID-19 recovery and ridership, workforce development, the traffic reduction program and other hot items. I wish Stephanie Godspeed in leading this organization as it continues its mission to transform the lives of Angelenos through improved mobility. To view the full press release and recording of the event, please click here.





Metro Conversations -- Joint Development Policy

I was pleased to address the more than 200 people who joined us last Wednesday, April 7, for *Metro Conversations - Joint Development Policy*. This virtual event was an opportunity for us to share information about that policy that we are currently updating. Thanks to Metro Board Director Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker who kicked off the event with her passionate remarks about the subject on which she is a true thought leader. I want to also thank Cecilia Estolano, a member of Metro's Policy Advisory Council who interviewed Wells Lawson, Metro's Senior Director of Joint Development, before leading a lively panel discussion with community stakeholders and experts:

- Kristin Fukushima, Managing Director, Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC);
- Lynn Katano, Director of Housing Investment & Finance at the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA);
- Rochelle Mills, President and CEO of Innovative Housing Opportunities;
- Carla de Paz, Senior Organizer with the Community Power Collective and formerly of the East LA Community Corporation;
- Takao Suzuki, Director of Community Development, the Little Tokyo Service Center;
- Judith Taylor, a Partner at HR&A Advisors; and
- Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, Executive Director of Los Angeles Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

The panelists discussed and answered questions from the audience about how Metro can best leverage joint development properties to house core Metro riders, leverage the private market to build more units, and reducing housing costs by building less parking.

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Metro staff who worked to make this event a success including Senior Executive Officer Holly Rockwell and her Joint Development team, as well as Community Relations, Special Events and Public Relations. You can view the event here. Staff is finalizing their proposed updates to our Joint Development Policy and plan to bring it to the Board to recommend adoption in June 2021.

This event was the third installment of the Metro Conversations series of virtual gatherings. Please join us on April 28 at Noon for our next Metro Conversation for Earth Month when we'll be discussing sustainability.



Public Safety Advisory Committee Holds First Meeting

On Wednesday, April 7, I was pleased to join new Metro Chief System Security & Law Enforcement Officer Judy Gerhart, Executive Officer of Equity & Race KeAndra Cylear-Dodds, and Executive Officer of Customer Experience Aaron Weinstein for Metro's first official Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). We hosted over 120 attendees including committee members and alternates, and it was my pleasure to deliver welcome remarks. The kick-off meeting included Brown Act training from Metro Inspector General Karen Gorman, PSAC member introductions, and administrative items.

During introductions, PSAC members had the opportunity to describe in one word *what public safety means to them*, and some of the responses included: **Equity, Inclusive, Solidarity, and Unity.** Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that Metro has hired two consultants to assist and facilitate PSAC meetings: Richard France, a planner at Estolano Advisors, with an extensive background in transportation and equity issues, and Tamika Butler, of TLB Consulting, a national expert on the built environment, equity, anti-racism, diversity and inclusion, organizational behavior, and change management.

PSAC meetings will be held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The next Metro PSAC meeting will take place Wednesday, April 21, 2021. For more information about PSAC, you can visit Metro's PSAC webpage.

Procurement Postings

Audio Production Service Request for Proposals (RFP) - Small Business Prime

Metro will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure a qualified and experienced audio production company. **This solicitation is open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, April 16, 2021 through Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

Services will include, but are not limited to, production of audio recordings, casting voice talent, use of music and sound effects, editing, mixing and delivery of final production electronically or in other formats as needed

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Antwaun Boykin. Principal Contract Administrator at (213) 922-1056.

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

Regional Connector Transit Project - Bikes Prohibited Westbound 1st Street at Vignes

Due to increasing construction activities for Metro's Regional Connector Transit Project—
including excavation of the 1st St Portal and future removal of the Gold Line tracks across
1st St—westbound 1st St is closed at Vignes St to all bicyclists through the duration of
construction. A bike detour is in place on westbound 1st St to southbound Vignes St, to 2nd
St, for westbound travel. To view the notice of work click, here.

Purple Line Extension Project: Gale Dr. Closure, Utility Duct Bank Installation
Beginning Monday, April 12, and continuing through Friday, May 7, Gale Dr. north of
Wilshire Blvd. will be fully closed to support the installation of a utility duct bank. This traffic
control will be implemented daily, from 6am to 5pm. The north leg crosswalk will be closed
to pedestrians while this closure is in place. To view the notice of work click here.

Caltrans Interstate 5: All Construction Updates here.

"Forget about trying to compete with someone else. Create your own pathway. Create your own new version."

~ Herbie Hancock

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