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# CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

**Phillip A. Washington**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Monday, May 10, 2021**

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## **Testifying Before Congress on Benefits of High-Speed Rail Investments in Southern California**

On Thursday, May 6, I testified before the U.S. Congress at the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. I spoke in a hearing titled "When Unlimited Potential Meets Limited Resources: The Benefits and Challenges of High-Speed Rail and Emerging Rail Technologies." I presented the advantages of high-speed rail investments in connecting rural areas with the urban core, renewing the American dream with affordable and equitable housing, restoring the country's leadership in building rail vehicles domestically, and proving a much safer way to travel.

Rail still has the power to move America to the forefront of the world stage and to enhance our nation. I have seen the power of rail to transform cities and bring renewed quality of life – and new businesses – to areas once left for dead. I believe high-speed rail – if done right – can serve our nation as well as the transcontinental railroad did in the mid-19th century.

I am honored to have testified at this hearing on behalf of our agency to discuss the many benefits of enhancing our rail network in Los Angeles County and across the nation. The Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials, has jurisdiction over the economic and safety regulation of railroads and the agencies that administer those regulations.

For a recording of my House Committee testimony, please [click here](#).

## **Metro and LA County Partner to Launch new COVID-19 Vaccination Sites at Three Metro Stations**

Metro has partnered with the LA County Department of Public Health and Metro Director and LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell to open three new public vaccination sites at Metro transit stations located in areas hard hit by COVID-19. They are the first vaccination sites to be installed on the Metro public transit system.

The vaccination sites are scheduled to open on Tuesday, May 11, at the C Line's (Green) Crenshaw/105 Station in Hawthorne, the Harbor Gateway Transit Center in Gardena, and the A Line's (Blue) Del Amo Station in Los Angeles. The sites are designed for walk ups and are a short walk from each Metro station. Vaccine site operating hours will be Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., accepting appointments and walk-ups.

There is no better example of Metro's efforts to ensure equity for our customers than by strategically placing Metro-friendly vaccination sites in underserved communities. Everyone deserves access to vital services — and especially the people who during the pandemic served others and kept our society and economy running.

## **Metro Bike Share Relaunches Westside Service Area**

Last Thursday, Metro Board Member and Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin was joined by Metro Senior Executive Officer Holly Rockwell and LADOT General Manager Seleta Reynolds in relaunching the Westside service area for the Metro Bike Share Program. A total of 67 stations will be installed in Westside communities, including Santa Monica, Venice, Mar Vista, Palms, Playa Vista, and surrounding areas. The new stations feature Classic Metro Bikes and docking stations and allow Metro to introduce Electric Metro Bikes, which have proven to be popular with users in the Downtown/Central LA service area. In addition, the relaunch on the Westside kicks-off Metro's annual celebration of Bike Month during May. This year, promotions on Metro Bike Share, Metro Bike Hubs as well as virtual classes from the BEST program will be offered. To date, Metro Bike Share has provided more than 1.1 million trips and has reduced more than 3.6 million pounds of emissions.



## **Metro's Shared Mobility Hosts ETC Virtual Workshop**

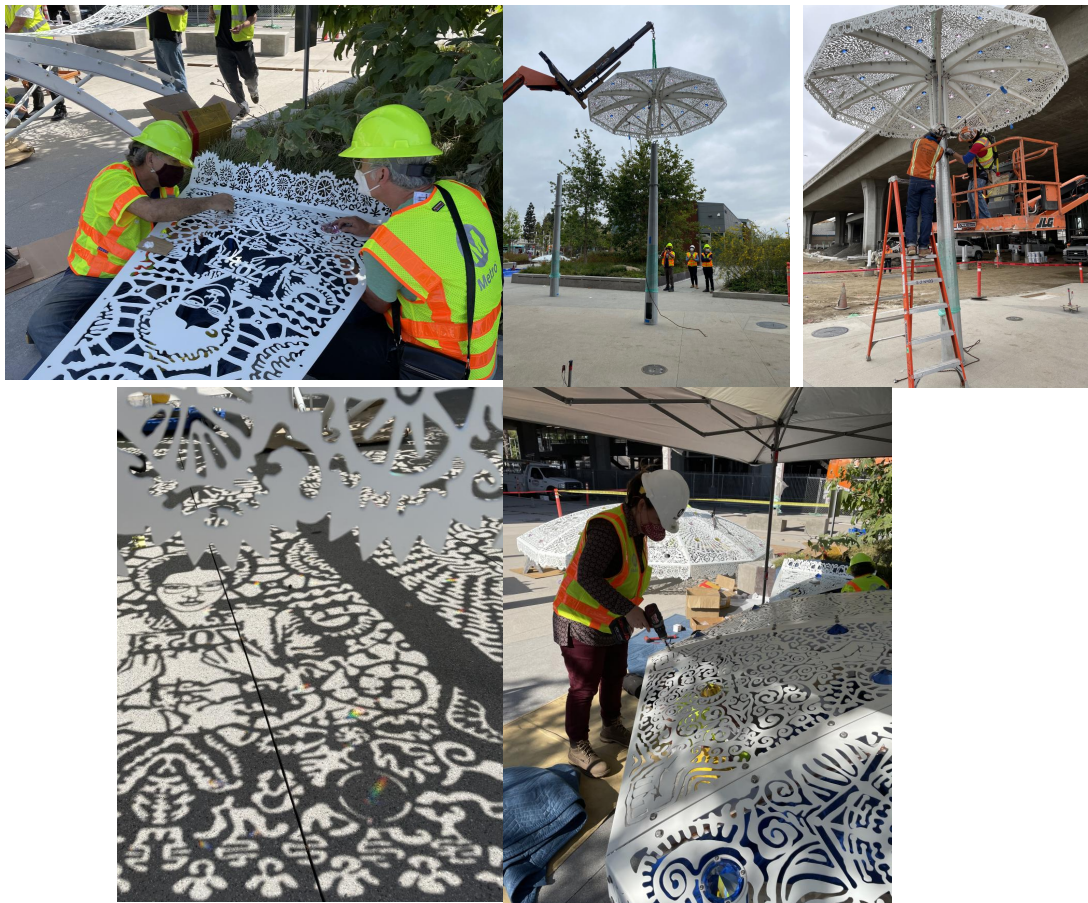
On April 29, Metro's Shared Mobility team, under Countywide Planning's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) group, hosted its first-ever virtual workshop for Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETC). This was also the first workshop hosted in collaboration with Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC). More than 200 ETCs representing employers from all three counties participated in the virtual workshop which was focused on marketing. Presentations included strategies on continuing to engage employees in shared mobility programs as they return to work, encouraging bicycling and providing Bike Month resources, and ongoing support of telecommuting at worksites. Metro has historically hosted two annual workshops to assist employers in meeting Southern California Air Quality Management District's



(SCAQMD) Rule 2202 which focuses on reducing emissions from commuters traveling to work. The next virtual workshop will be hosted in Fall 2021.

### **New Artwork Installation Underway at Willowbrook/Rosa Parks Station**

The artists Jamex and Einar de la Torre have been hard at work with an installation crew to assemble and place four new sculptural artworks celebrating the work of Rosa Parks and honoring the civil rights movement. The parasol shaped sculptures are sprouting up at the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks Station plaza fronting the new Customer Center. Each parasol structure weighs over 1000 lbs. and is made from sturdy steel and lacy aluminum components. Stay tuned for more information about the project and its ties to Rosa Parks and the community as well as the artists who created the work in coming weeks.



### **Metro's Community Education Celebrates National Teacher Appreciation Week**

This year Metro's Community Education (MCE) went virtual in thanking teachers for the time and effort they provided staff for the past year. From hosting virtual tours of Union Station to transit safety educational workshops, teachers continue to share Metro's priority of safety by sharing their virtual learning environments with MCE. Check out the video MCE staff put together showing their appreciation for our teachers in LA County.

Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhuCbleVegQ>



## On the Move Riders Program Presents the Bob Baker Marionette Theater

On Friday, April 30, On the Move Riders Program (OTMRP) hosted a virtual presentation with the Bob Baker Marionette Theater. OTMRP's volunteer Travel Buddies enjoyed a unique look at the art of puppeteering. Winona Bechtle, the theater's Director of Development and Community Partnerships, led Travel Buddies on a trip back in time to the early days of the theater. Through pictures from the theater's archive, attendees learned about the early years and the art of puppeteering.

The Bob Baker Marionette Theater, founded in 1963 by Bob Baker and Alton Wood, is the oldest children's theater company in Los Angeles. It is conveniently located in Highland Park and is easily accessible through public transportation. The theater will be a future destination that Metro riders are excited to visit in person.



## Procurement Postings

[TDA Triennial Review Services \(RFP\) - Small Business Prime](#)

Metro released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Transportation Development Act (TDA) Triennial Review Services on Friday, April 30, 2021. The procurement blackout period started on Friday, April 30, 2021 and is expected to run through Friday, June 18, 2021.

The Contractor shall furnish all labor, supplies, tools and equipment to provide TDA triennial review services as they are defined in the scope of services, in accordance with all applicable laws.

Section 99245 of the Public Utilities Code requires an annual certified fiscal audit of each claimant of TDA funds and a certification that funds allocated to the claimant pursuant to the TDA were expended in conformance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Furthermore, the review must meet legislative requirements of AB1246, SB759 and SB1755 and should also provide pertinent information and recommendations to assist in improving the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of transit program planning and administration of Metro.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Ernesto N. De Guzman, Director, Contract Administration, at (213) 922-7267 or [deguzmane@metro.net](mailto:deguzmane@metro.net).

Kenneth Hahn Call Box System Evaluation (RFP)- Small Business Prime

LA SAFE will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure the services of a consultant to evaluate the Kenneth Hahn Call Box System. **This project is a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Set-Aside open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Monday, May 17, 2021 through Monday, July 26, 2021.

LA SAFE will seek proposals from qualified firms to ensure that the Kenneth Hahn Call Box system will continue to function as a safe efficient and effective service to the Los Angeles County motoring public.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by DeValory Donahue, Principal Contract Administrator at [donahued@metro.net](mailto:donahued@metro.net).

**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: Traffic Closure on Southbound Century Park East

In preparation for the launch box full closure reopening, the contractor will implement daytime traffic closures on southbound Century Park East at Constellation Blvd. to facilitate street restoration and paving. Wednesday, May 12 to Thursday, May 13, 2021 from 7am to 4pm. The southbound bus stop just north of Constellation Blvd. will be impacted during work hours. Pedestrian access will be maintained in the area. To view the notice of work click [here](#).

Purple Line Extension Project: SCE Coordination Work near VA Hospital Campus

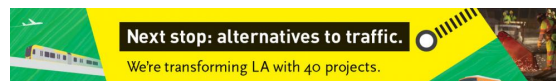
Metro contractors will continue utility work in coordination with So Cal Edison on the Wilshire Blvd – Bonsall Ave ramps at the VA Hospital Campus. Work will be done from May 3 to 14, 2021. The ramp closures will be in effect from 9am to 3:30pm, Monday through Friday. To view the notice of work click [here](#).

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

"All of our experiences fuse into our personality. Everything that ever happened to us is an ingredient."

~ Malcolm X

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**Bus & Rail Transit information**

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

8:00am - 4:30pm (Saturday/Sunday)

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