



## Juneteenth Recognition and Celebration

It's About Freedom, It's About New Hope, It's About Change

### Metro African American Trailblazers and Pioneers In The Spotlight



#### Breaking the Glass Ceiling

Today we recognize and celebrate Leilia M. Bailey-Leahy. Ms. Bailey-Leahy had over 25 years of professional experience in the transportation field before her retirement in 2000. She began her transportation career in 1971 with the Southern California Rapid Transit District (RTD) as an Operator. Mrs. Bailey-Leahy worked her way up through the ranks to become the Assistant Director of Transportation (1986 to 1987) and then Director of Transportation (1987 to 1991). During this time, she was responsible for the effective administration of all transportation activities including bus operations, transportation control and services, instruction, labor contracts and the management of special projects. Her responsibilities also included planning, developing and administration of the Transportation Department's \$300 million budget, policies and procedures. She was held accountable for 5,500 employees including managers, clerical/office staff, trainers and operators, 2,000 buses and 54 rail cars. Some of her notable accomplishments are as follows:

- Personally coordinated the creation and start-up of a rail operating organization
- Launched the Metro Blue Line in 1990
- Reduced operating costs by more than \$7 million through the reduction of accidents and operator absences
- Organized and operated special transit services in support of the 1984 Olympics
- Dramatically improved bus on-time performance, service reliability, safety and customer service

After leaving the RTD, Mrs. Bailey-Leahy relocated to the Cleveland, Ohio area where she became the Assistant General Manager of Operations and served in that capacity from 1991 to 1997. Her Transportation career then carried her on to the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority in New Orleans, Louisiana where she became the Deputy General Manager of Operations from 1998 to 1999. Leilia Bailey-Leahy is currently retired and enjoys spending time in her vacation/retirement home in Oakhurst with her husband, Arthur T. Leahy, CEO, Metro.

Metro AAEA along with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is proud to spotlight Trailblazer and Pioneer, Leilia Bailey-Leahy for providing hope and change, for paving the way, and inspiring the leaders who followed her here at METRO.