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Friday, June 23, 2017

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Thank You For a History-Making Year Chair Fasana

At yesterday's board meeting, I joined Board Members and staff in formally recognizing Metro Director and City of Duarte Mayor Pro Tem John Fasana for his outstanding service as Chairman of the Board this past fiscal year. Chair Fasana was well equipped to guide and lead this agency through one of the most robust public education and outreach efforts ever conducted by Metro, leading up to a resounding passage of Measure M at the polls. While Metro received mass media attention and industry buzz surrounding our rail line expansion and infrastructure construction, Chair Fasana remained a champion of Metro's approach to a balanced transportation system – reminding us all of the importance of maintaining our highways, roads and active transportation networks. As one of the most tech-savvy members of the Board, Chair Fasana also helped guide the agency towards the path of innovation and creativity in all business dealings with Metro. I look forward to working with Director Fasana as we continue to fulfill the promises of Measure M while providing excellence in service and support.





Transforming the Region and The Mobility Culture

Yesterday was a big day for all of us here at Metro. The Metro Board of Directors approved the Measure M Guidelines at our Regular June Board Meeting, marking another major milestone in the implementation of Measure M. Through our continued regional collaboration with our partners across the county, the Measure M Guidelines have been established and will direct how we administer Measure M funds to ensure that they are spent as intended and approved by the public.

This is a critical step towards our path of building for the future and changing the mobility culture. The extensive work already underway on Measure M is an example of our commitment to getting the job done. We are all a part of Metro's transportation revolution which is giving back to everyone life's most treasured commodity - Time.

Announcing the Board Approval of the Gold Line Extension to Claremont

Following yesterday's Board Meeting, I joined Metro Board Chair and City of Duarte Mayor Pro Tem John Fasana, Metro Board Members and LA County Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Hilda Solis, Metro Board Member and Caltrans District 7 Director Carry Bowen, Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority CEO Habib Balian and their Board Chair Doug Tessitor for a news conference regarding the Board's approval of a \$1.4-billion budget and partnership agreements to extend the Metro Gold Line in the San Gabriel Valley another 11.5 miles east to Claremont.

The extension, to be built by the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority, will be the first rail line to begin construction from Measure M. This extension truly showcases the transportation revolution in our region as it creates a critical new transit connection for Los Angeles, San Gabriel Valley and the Inland Empire.





Metro Holds Purple Line Public Hearing in Beverly Hills

Also yesterday, Metro held a Public Hearing in Beverly Hills to collect public comment for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) associated with Section 2 of the Purple Line Extension. The targeted SEIS was ordered last summer by a federal Judge in response to a lawsuit brought by the city of Beverly Hills and Beverly Hills Unified School District. The hearing consisted of a short presentation summarizing the Draft SEIS before 18 individuals provided verbal comments. The hearing was attended by approximately 54 individuals, including Beverly Hills City Councilmember Robert Wunderlich, Beverly Hills School Board Members Lisa Korbatov and Howard Goldstein, and three media outlets: the Beverly Hills Courier, Beverly Hills Weekly, and LA Streetsblog. The public comment period will run through July 17, 2017; details for providing public comment can be found here.

Saying Farewell to the Blue Line's Original Work Horses

On Wednesday, Metro Chair and City of Duarte Mayor Pro Tem John Fasana, Metro Board Member and City of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Metro Board Member and LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn and Metro Deputy CEO Stephanie Wiggins joined Metro Blue Line Division 11 Staff and media to formally say good-bye, and thank you, to our original Nippon Sharyo P865 rail cars. After 27 years of service to Los Angeles County, these original Metro rail cars are being replaced with the new Kinkisharyo P3010 cars to enhance passenger service and improve vehicle reliability and maintainability. Most of the old P865 cars will be dismantled for reusable parts, some will be used for ceremonial displays and others will be sent to educational institutions for training.

Beginning their service in 1990, the Nippon Sharyo P865 rail cars and the Metro Blue Line was the first rail transit line in the LA County region since the demise of the Pacific Electric streetcars in 1963. Each of the 67 old rail cars was named after a city or community along or near the Blue Line. The first car carried the number 100 and was named after Long Beach. In February, car 105 with the name of "Bell" — for the city of Bell — was the first to be taken out of service and dismantled for parts. In July, two more cars will also be retired from service. Four cars a month will then be retired beginning in August.

The Blue Line remains the busiest of Metro's four light rail lines and has averaged about 70,000 weekday boardings in 2017. I look forward to the continued investment and maintenance of the Blue Line – the heart of the Metro Rail System.











Director Garcia Joins Metro Transit Safety Programs Pop-Up Event in Long Beach

On Tuesday, Metro Transit Safety Programs (TSP) held its 13th Rail Safety Pop-Up Event at the Blue Line Downtown Long Beach Station, co-hosted by the Downtown Long Beach Alliance, and Long Beach Transit. The team was joined by special guest, Metro Board Member and City of Long Beach Mayor, Robert Garcia. Mayor Garcia greeted patrons, helped deliver our message of safety around transit and assisted with the distribution of 600 limited edition safety pins. The event also showcased Metro's Safetyville videos, which have received global recognition since TSP introduced them in June 2016. Keep a lookout for the TSP team as they wrap up their station pop-up events through the end of the month.





Hiring our Vets: Metro Veterans Summer Slam Job Fair

Last week, Chair Fasana and I joined Los Angeles County partners in both the public and private industries for the Metro, LA Sparks, and LA Trade Tech Veterans "Summer Slam" Job Fair at LA Trade Tech College. The unemployment rate for Veterans is unacceptable, especially as we reach a high amount of retirements and an aging workforce. Our military veterans are excellent candidates for many good jobs around the County and possess a unique understanding of leadership and what it takes to help any company excel. Metro will remain committed along with our County partners to provide tools and the platform to get our hero's the good paying career jobs they deserve.

There was an excellent turnout of roughly 800 jobseekers throughout the day, over 45 employers from all levels of government and private sector industries and 15 veteran resource organizations. This could not have been possible without the collaborative partnership and I want to thank everyone involved in making this happen including Metro Veterans Program Manager Dennis Tucker, Chief Human Capital & Development Officer Joanne Peterson and DEO Talent Acquisition Carmen Mayor.











Calling All Metro Talent

We all know that bus operator who has a passion for performing hip hop and R&B tracks. That accountant who loves to do stand-up comedy. That guitar-playing planner and the tap-dancing Deputy Executive Officer... these are the hidden talents that make us more than just our jobs. That is the idea behind Metro's first-ever Employee Talent Show. This eye-opening celebration of Metro talent will take place Thursday, September 14, on the plaza of our Gold Line Mariachi Plaza Station.

First, we need to meet Metro's hidden stars. Singers, dancers, musicians, comedians, jugglers – You all are encouraged to attend one of our auditions on Thursday, August 3 or Friday, August 4 at Gateway Metro Headquarters. And if you are better at cheering and clapping, we need you too, to make the show a hit. This evening event will boast food trucks, special performances by surprise guests and a sense of family and celebration that only Metro can deliver. For more information and to sign up for an audition, Metro employees click here. Watch this CEO Brief for more details as we move closer to show time.





Metro Invited to be Guest of Honor at European Mobility Exhibition

I am pleased to inform you that Metro has accepted an invitation to be the "Guest of Honor" at the next European Mobility Exhibition in Paris, in June 2018. The event is organized by GIE Objectif Transport

Public, which has formed a partnership with APTA to forge closer ties between the transit industry in France, the rest of Europe and the United States. The exhibition is designed to encourage the sharing of mobility best practices, develop innovation and tackle the transition from private vehicles to sustainable mobility, especially in major cities. This is an incredible opportunity to collaborate with our European transit peers and is a testament of the groundbreaking work we are doing here at Metro.

Procurement Postings

Vending Machines and Vending Machine Services (RFP)

Metro will release a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking a Contractor to provide high quality and dependable Food and Beverage Vending Machines and Vending Machine Services. The procurement blackout period is expected to run from Thursday, June 29, 2017 through Monday, October 2, 2017.

Services shall include but are not limited to installing, stocking, servicing, and maintaining vending machines.

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.

Metro Red Line Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) Batteries (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) to procure Uninterruptible Power Supply Batteries. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Wednesday, June 21, 2017 through Friday, December 29, 2017.

This procurement is for six (6) Uninterruptible Power Supply Batteries for Metro Red Line.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Lorretta Norris, Sr. Contract Administrator at (213) 922-2632.

Construction Notices: Patsaouras Bus Plaza Station Project, I-5

Patsaouras Bus Plaza Station Project: Center St. Lane Closures -- Late Night

Center St. between Ramirez St. & Commercial St., adjacent to the project workzone, will experience intermittent lane closures beginning Friday, June 23, 2017, late night, 9:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. These lane closures are required as construction crews perform project related work at this location.

<u>Patsaouras Bus Plaza Station Project: Vignes St. On/Off Ramp Closure -- Extended</u>

Due to unforseen circumstances, the northbound US 101 Vignes St on/off-ramps closure has been extended thru September 15, 2017.

Caltrans Interstate 5: All Construction Updates here.

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

- Berthold Auerbach

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