

## Metro Report Archives - June 2004 Articles

### Wednesday, June 30

[Two MTA Mechanics, Three Others](#) Charged in Conspiracy  
[National Arts Group Honors](#) MTA Passes for Outstanding Design  
[Original MTA Rail Backer](#) Rodney W. Rood Dies

### Tuesday, June 29

[Court Orders Red Line Subcontractor](#) to Pay MTA \$5.2 Million  
**PLUS** [The Facts of MTA's Case](#) Against Oved & Associates  
[MTA Board Approves Funding](#) for More Bus Service Hours  
[Metro Gold Line Employees](#) Compile 327 Injury-Free Days

### Friday, June 25

[Graduation Celebration:](#) 217 graduates make MTA's 2004 Honor Roll  
[Lancaster Mayor Frank Roberts](#) to Lead MTA in FY 2005  
[Valley Business Group](#) Honors MTA with Major Award

### Thursday, June 24

[Yaroslavsky](#) Looks Back on His Year as Board Chairman  
[MTA Governance Councils](#) to Hold Meetings in July  
[A Typical Kid –](#) Who Wants to Work for MTA When He Grows Up

### Wednesday, June 23

[Governance Council Members](#) Attend First Annual Meeting  
[Groundbreaking for Transit-Oriented Housing](#) in Lincoln Heights

### Tuesday, June 22

[MTA Board to Consider](#) Funding for More Bus Service Hours  
[National President Installs NCMA](#) LA Gateway Chapter Officers  
[MTA Riders Offered Discount](#) for Latino Film Festival

### Friday, June 18

[MTA to Boost Revenue Service](#) by 83,000 Hours, June 27  
[LASD Opens 68 Positions](#) for Metro Rail Security Assistants  
[Carson Division Hosts](#) 'Apprentices For a Day'

### Thursday, June 17

[Metro Rapid Rolls](#), June 28, on Vernon-La Cienega, Soto Street  
[Venice Division Cheers](#) Olympic Torch Relay

### Wednesday, June 16

[Black Business Association names MTA](#) 'Government Agency of the Year'  
[Sim City Weekend:](#) Learn the Art of City Building  
[MTA CEO Keynote Speaker](#) at Pico Rivera Quarterly Luncheon

### Thursday, June 10

[Employee Center](#) Will Remain Open  
[They're Doin' Great!](#) 'How You Doin'?' Awards for March and 3rd Quarter

### Wednesday, June 9

[MTA Board Adopts \\$2.9 Billion Budget](#) for FY 2005  
[MEMORY BOOK >](#) Share Your Memories of President Reagan  
[Former Customer Agent](#) Found Guilty of Stealing Monthly Passes  
[Gateway Cites Stops by Bellflower Car Show](#) with Antique MTA Bus

**Tuesday, June 8**

[MTA Buses Shuttled Mourners](#) to Pay Respects to President Reagan - Gallery

[Two Commuters](#) Collect 'Bike to Work Day' Top Prizes

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**Friday, June 4**

[MTA's Big Win:](#) A letter to employees from CEO Roger Snoble

[FY 2005 Budget, Extra Bus Service Hours](#) on Board Agenda

[Anatomy of a media event >](#) MTA Employees Make Summer Day Pass Promotion a Real "Hollywood Production"

[Final Reminder:](#) 2004 MTA Graduation Celebration

**Wednesday, June 2**

[NEWS RELEASE >](#) Arbitration Panel Renders Decision to Resolve Health Care Issues with MTA Maintenance Union (metro.net/pressroom)

[MTA's Third-Party Administrators](#) Pave the Way for Construction

**Tuesday, June 1**

[FTA OKs \\$490.7 Million](#) for Gold Line Extension to East LA

[Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky:](#) Kudos for All Who Worked for Gold Line Extension

[Employers Honored During 6th Annual Rideshare](#) Diamond Awards Luncheon

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Metro Honor Roll was compiled by Lisa Huynh, Metro Honor Roll 2004 project manager, with the assistance of Kim Sim.	
METRO HONOR ROLL - Class of 2004	
<p><b>Congratulations, Class of 2004!</b></p> <p>Graduation marks an occasion to celebrate your academic accomplishments. Through your commitment of time, energy and spirit – and with the support of your family – you have met your goals and now can take justifiable pride in your achievement. Good luck with your career in the years to come! A promising future lies ahead.</p> <p>-- Roger Snoble, CEO</p>	
<p>Click on links below to go directly to department or division grads.</p> <p>*Use your browser's &lt;BACK button to return top.</p>	
<p><b>METRO HEADQUARTERS</b></p> <p><a href="#">Accounting</a></p> <p><a href="#">Board Research Services</a></p> <p><a href="#">Bus Operations Control</a></p> <p><a href="#">Central Area Team</a></p> <p><a href="#">Communications</a></p> <p><a href="#">Communications Executive Office</a></p> <p><a href="#">Community Relations</a></p> <p><a href="#">Construction Executive Office</a></p> <p><a href="#">Construction Quality Management</a></p> <p><a href="#">Contracts &amp; Procurement</a></p> <p><a href="#">County Counsel</a></p> <p><a href="#">Customer Relations/ Metro Information</a></p> <p><a href="#">Customer &amp; Vendor Services</a></p> <p><a href="#">Diversity &amp; Economic Opportunity</a></p> <p><a href="#">Employee Activities</a></p> <p><a href="#">Employment</a></p> <p><a href="#">Finance, Executive Office</a></p> <p><a href="#">Fleet Management &amp; Support Services</a></p> <p><a href="#">General Services</a></p> <p><a href="#">Heavy Rail Maintenance-of-Way</a></p> <p><a href="#">Human Resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">Information and Technology Services</a></p> <p><a href="#">Internal Audit</a></p> <p><a href="#">Inventory Management</a></p> <p><a href="#">Light Rail Maintenance-of-Way</a></p> <p><a href="#">Marketing/Advertisement</a></p> <p><a href="#">Metro Art</a></p> <p><a href="#">Office of Board Secretary</a></p> <p><a href="#">Office of CFO</a></p> <p><a href="#">Operations Central Instructions</a></p> <p><a href="#">Printing Services</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Procurement</a></p> <p><a href="#">Purchasing</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rail Activation</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rail Operations</a></p> <p><a href="#">Real Estate Administration</a></p> <p><a href="#">Regional Rebuild Center</a></p> <p><a href="#">Revenue Collection Equipment Maintenance</a></p> <p><a href="#">Standards &amp; Employee Programs</a></p> <p><a href="#">San Fernando/North County Area</a></p> <p><a href="#">San Fernando Valley Service Sector</a></p> <p><a href="#">San Gabriel Valley Service Sector</a></p> <p><a href="#">Service Performance Analysis</a></p> <p><a href="#">Systems Engineering</a></p> <p><a href="#">Stops And Zones</a></p> <p><a href="#">Treasury</a></p> <p><b>OPERATING DIVISIONS</b></p> <p><a href="#">Central City Division 1</a></p> <p><a href="#">Crossroads Depot Division 2</a></p> <p><a href="#">North Los Angeles Division 3</a></p> <p><a href="#">Non-Revenue Division 4</a></p> <p><a href="#">Arthur Winston Division 5</a></p> <p><a href="#">West Hollywood Division 7</a></p> <p><a href="#">West Valley Division 8</a></p> <p><a href="#">San Gabriel Valley Division 9</a></p> <p><a href="#">Gateway Division 10</a></p> <p><a href="#">Metro Blue Line Division 11</a></p> <p><a href="#">East Valley Division 15</a></p> <p><a href="#">South Bay Division 18</a></p> <p><a href="#">Metro Red Line Division 20</a></p> <p><a href="#">Metro Gold Line Division 21</a></p> <p><a href="#">Metro Green Line Division 22</a></p>

ACCOUNTING

College Graduates

**Jason C. De Guzman**, son of Senior Accountant Silverio A. De Guzman Jr., graduated from UC Irvine with a BS in Biological Science.

**Deanna L. Koskela**, daughter of Supervising Control Clerk Willie Koskela, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BA in Liberal Arts and Sociology.

High School Graduate

**Ricardo J. Martinez**, son of Payroll Clerk Rudolph R. Martinez, graduated from Upland High School.

#### **BOARD RESEARCH SERVICES**

*High School Graduate*

**Alex Henry**, son of Transportation Planning Manager Art Henry, graduated from Windward School in West Los Angeles.

#### **BUS OPERATIONS CONTROL**

*Employee Graduates*

**Patrice Hill**, TOS, graduated from Los Angeles Southwest College with an AA in Interdisciplinary Studies.

**Glendora Walker**, Senior Secretary, graduated from Los Angeles Southwest College with an AA in Business.

*High School Graduate*

**Ben Seelig**, son of Transit Operations Supervisor David W. Seelig, graduated from Kaiser High School in Fontana.

#### **CENTRAL AREA TEAM**

*Employee Graduate*

**Emanuel Higgins**, Administrative Intern, graduated from CSU Los Angeles, with a BA in Public Administration.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

*Employee Graduates*

**Lisa Huynh**, Public Relations Administrative Intern, graduated from CSU Northridge with a BA in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in Sociology.

**Kim Sim**, Public Relations Administrative Intern, graduated from USC with a BA in Journalism and minors in Natural Science and Communication Law and Media Policy.

*High School Graduate*

**Jake Jager**, son of Senior Communications Officer Rick Jager, graduated from Rancho Cucamonga High School.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

*College Graduate*

**Gem Lindsay**, daughter of Senior Administrative Analyst Lou Bendijo-Wong, graduated from University of La Verne with an MA in Health Administration.

#### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

*Employee Graduates*

**Valarie Harrison**, Community Relations Officer, graduated from University of La Verne with an MA in Business Administration.

**Sebastian Andres Hernandez**, Administrative Intern, graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a BA in Urban Studies and a BA in Sociology.

**Yvette Z. Robles**, Senior Community Relations Officer, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with an MS in Public Administration.

*College Graduate*

**Michelle Antoinette Thompson**, daughter of Community Relations Officer Valarie Harrison, graduated from Syracuse University in New York with a BA in Political Science, accepted to law school.

*High School Graduate*

**Colleen A. Charles**, daughter of Administrative Analyst Denise Charles, graduated from Mayfield Senior School in Pasadena.

**Michael Morallo**, son of Community Relations Manager Richard Morallo, graduated from

Torrance High School.

#### CONSTRUCTION EXECUTIVE OFFICE

*High School Graduate*

**Julian Nery Watson**, son of Secretary Donna-Lee Watson, graduated from Alhambra High School.

#### CONSTRUCTION QUALITY MANAGEMENT

*College Graduates*

**Katherine Estrada**, daughter of Project Quality Manager Dan Estrada, graduated from UCLA with a BS in Political Science, Cum Laude.

**Thomas Estrada**, son of Project Quality Manager Dan Estrada, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BS in Public Recreation.

#### CONTRACTS & PROCUREMENT

*College Graduate*

**Rebecca E. Velasquez**, daughter of Senior Contract Administrator Ed Velasquez, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics, Presidents List and Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

#### COUNTY COUNSEL

*College Graduate*

**Guillermina Alvarez**, wife of Chief Administrative Analyst Gerardo Alvarez, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with a BA in Child Development, Dean's List.

#### CUSTOMER RELATIONS/ METRO INFORMATION

*High School Graduate*

**Faith E. Waters**, daughter of Customer Information Agent Donna Cowan-Waters, graduated from King Drew Medical Magnet School of Science & Medicine.

#### CUSTOMER & VENDOR SERVICES

*College Graduates*

**Carlos A. Alvarado**, son of Customer Services Agent Maria Elena Diaz, graduated from CSU Fullerton with a BA in Business.

**Javier Israel Lebrija**, son of Customer Service Agent Ana Lebrija, graduated from CSU Fullerton with a BS in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Athletic Training.

#### DIVERSITY & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

*Employee Graduate*

**Slawomir Kortas**, Administrative Intern, graduated from CSU Northridge with a BA in Geography.

*College Graduates*

**Marco Benjamin Garcia**, son of Assistant Administrative Analyst Elizabeth L. Garcia, graduated from DeVry University with a BS in Electronics Engineering Technology, Cum Laude, Dean's List.

**Sherman Edward Gay**, Son of Contract Compliance Officer Sherman Gay, graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a BA in Business Administration, Basketball All Conference Forward Player and Defensive Player of the Year.

#### EMPLOYEE ACTIVITIES

*Employee Graduate*

**Kenitra McCoverly**, Administrative Intern, graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a BS in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management & Marketing.

#### EMPLOYMENT

*High School Graduate*

**Vanessa Lorraine Hernandez**, daughter of Employment Processing Clerk Lorraine P. Hernandez and Maintenance Division 18 Stock Clerk Paul F. Hernandez, graduated from

Montebello High School.

#### **FINANCE, EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

*College Graduates*

**Denise Marie Silva**, daughter of Executive Secretary Elizabeth Silva, graduated from Fullerton College with an AA in Political Science.

**John Joseph Silva Jr.**, son of Executive Secretary Elizabeth Silva, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with a BA in Sociology.

#### **FLEET MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT SERVICES**

*College Graduate*

**Amber Astredo**, daughter of Assistant Manager Patrick Astredo, graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a BA in History.

#### **GENERAL SERVICES**

*High School Graduate*

**Michael Willcut**, son of Travel Coordinator Linda Willcut, graduated from Chino High School.

#### **HEAVY RAIL MAINTENANCE-OF-WAY**

*High School Graduate*

**Rachel L. Darensbourg**, daughter of Administrative Aide Eileen Darensbourg, graduated from Quartz Hill High School.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

*High School Graduate*

**Sami Harper**, daughter of Employee Programs Manager Kathi Harper and Division 9 Bus Operator Sam Harper, graduated from Alta Loma High School.

#### **INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

*College Graduates*

**Matthew Asuncion**, son of Systems Project Manager Mila Asuncion, graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a BA in Business Administration.

**Robert K. Presler Jr.**, son of Engineering Associate Robert K. Presler Sr., graduated from UC Riverside with an MA in Music Composition.

*High School Graduate*

**Dwight Asuncion**, son of Systems Project Manager Mila Asuncion, graduated from Santa Margarita High School.

#### **INTERNAL AUDIT**

*High School Graduate*

**Sachi Shashank Patel**, daughter of Senior Auditor Sangeeta Patel, graduated from Walnut High School.

#### **INVENTORY MANAGEMENT**

*High School Graduate*

**Torri Fagernes**, daughter of Material Supervisor Kent Fagernes, graduated from Serrano High School in Phelan, CA.

**Steven L. Petres**, son of Equipment Maintenance Manager John S. Petres, graduated from Diamond Ranch High School in Diamond Bar.

#### **LIGHT RAIL MAINTENANCE-OF-WAY**

*College Graduates*

**Elaine Rose Almazan**, daughter of Rail Traction Supervisor Armando M. Almazan, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BS in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing.

**Danessa Besabella**, daughter Traction Power Supervisor Danilo R. Besabella, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BA in Human Development.

**Bryce Yang**, son of Project Engineer Jim Yang, graduated from UCLA with a BA in Sociology – Communication.

*High School Graduate*

**Vanessa Chappell**, daughter of DEO Rail Operations Robert Chappell, graduated from Independence High School in Glendale, Ariz.

**Lawrence Lee**, son of Project Engineer Glenn Lee, graduated from Wilson High School in Hacienda Heights, All League Tennis Player.

#### **MARKETING/ADVERTISMENT**

*Employee Graduate*

**Navin C. Vutha**, Administrative Intern, graduated from USC with an MS in Urban Planning, Cum Laude.

#### **METRO ART**

*Employee Graduate*

**Andy W. Stolarek**, Administrative Intern, graduated from California Institute of the Arts with a BFA in Interschool Music & Art.

#### **OFFICE OF BOARD SECRETARY**

*College Graduate*

**Ehize Aisuan**, daughter of Assistant Board Secretary Sharon Sterling, graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a BS in Biopsychology.

#### **OFFICE OF CFO**

*Employee Graduate*

**Carlos A. Rodriguez**, Finance Manager, graduated from USC Marshall School of Business with an MBA in Corporate Finance.

#### **OPERATIONS CENTRAL INSTRUCTIONS**

*High School Graduates*

**Chris Myles**, son of Transit Operations Supervisor Debra Spencer, graduated from Goldwest High School in Visalia.

**Robert Gregory Trujillo**, son of Transit Operations Supervisor Brenda Esquivel, graduated from Sierra High School in Azusa.

#### **PRINTING SERVICES**

*College Graduate*

**Marcus J. Fuentes**, son of Printer II David C. Fuentes, graduated from Don Bosco Technical College with an AS in Electronics.

*High School Graduates*

**Matthew Hartert**, son of Printing Services Supervisor Rob Hartert, graduated from Covina High School.

**Nadia Maria Alvarez**, daughter of Leadman Printing Services Manuel Alvarez, graduated from West Covina High School, honors.

#### **PROCUREMENT**

*College Graduates*

**Carrie Katherine Veal-Pollard**, daughter of Senior Buyer Kitty Jones, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BS in Business/Finance.

**Petra Dawn Seawell**, daughter of Senior Contract Administrator DonCosta E. Seawell, graduated from Columbia University Law School with a JD in Law.

*High School Graduate*

**Francisco V. Alvarado**, son of General Clerk Griselda Alvarado, graduated from Cabrillo High School in Long Beach.

**Jessica J. Chiu**, daughter of Departmental Systems Analyst Theresa Chow, graduated from

Diamond Bar High School, Principal's Honor Roll and National Honor Roll Society.

## **PURCHASING**

### *College Graduate*

**Marcia James**, daughter of Material Manager Margaret James, graduated from California Baptist University with a BA in Education.

### *High School Graduates*

**Whitney Richelle Fredrick**, daughter of Senior Buyer Tanya Allen, graduated from Eisenhower High School in Rialto.

**Tracy Ingham**, daughter of Buyer Pat Ingham, graduated from Bonita High School in Laverne, National Merit Scholar.

**Meagan James**, daughter of Material Manager Margaret James, graduated from Alta Loma High School.

**Robby New**, son of Director Purchasing Bob New, graduated from Valencia High School, Honors.

## **RAIL ACTIVATION**

### *College Graduate*

**Melissa Strilecki**, daughter of Schedule Maker II Stephan Strilecki, graduated from Arizona State University with a BS in Finance, Magna Cum Laude.

## **RAIL OPERATIONS**

### *College Graduate*

**Nichole C. Francis**, daughter of General Manager Gerald C. Francis, graduated from Howard University with a BS in Health Science,

## **REAL ESTATE ADMINISTRATION**

### *College Graduate*

**Steven Dominguez**, son of Real Estate Officer Diane Dominguez, graduated from Don Bosco College with an AS in Construction.

## **REGIONAL REBUILD CENTER**

### *Employee Graduates*

**Albert Escarcega**, Digital Systems Technician, graduated from Mt. San Antonio College with an AA in Liberal Arts and Electronic Communications.

**Milo Victoria**, DEO Operations, graduated from University of Phoenix with a BS in Business Management, Summa Cum Laude.

### *College Graduate*

**Thomas White**, son of Clerk Olivia Wilson-White, graduated from LA Trade Tech. Community College with an AS in Computer Science.

### *High School Graduates*

**Jacqueline Ashley Griffen**, daughter of Maintenance Software Specialist Darryl Griffen, graduated from Montebello High School.

**Joseph M. Jimenez**, son of Receiving Clerk Joe Jimenez, graduated from Charter Oak High School in Covina.

**Frank Lozano**, son of Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Alfred Lozano, graduated from Arrow Head High School in El Monte.

**Darnell Andrew White**, son of Clerk Olivia Wilson-White, graduated from Leuzinger High School in Lawndale, Calif.

## **REVENUE COLLECTION EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE**

### *Employee Graduate*

**Michael Gallarza**, Administrative Intern, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BS in Business-Finance.

### *College Graduate*



**Brandy Hermann**, daughter of Equipment Maintenance Manager Jesus Godinez, graduated from Community College of the Airforce with an AA in Communications Applications Technology.

#### **STANDARDS & EMPLOYEE PROGRAMS**

*Employee Graduate*

**Tera Thamawatanakul**, Administrative Intern, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BS in Management and Human Resources.

#### **SAN FERNANDO/NORTH COUNTY AREA**

*Employee Graduate*

**Johanna Rivera**, Administrative Intern, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BS in Human Resources and Management.

#### **SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SERVICE SECTOR**

*College Graduates*

**Laura Amoroso**, daughter of Transit Operations Supervisor Tony Amoroso, graduated from Cal State Northridge with a BA in Communications

#### **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY SERVICE SECTOR**

*Employee Graduate*

**Scott H. Biom**, Senior Safety Specialist, graduated from Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of Management with an MA in Executive Management, an Executive MBA in Global Strategy and a CSP in Safety, Cum Laude.

*College Graduates*

**Joseph Castillo**, son of Transit Operations Supervisor David Castillo, graduated from the California School of Culinary Arts with an AA in Professional Chef.

**Andrea Cecere**, daughter of Transit Operations Supervisor Frank Cecere, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with a BS Criminal Justice.

*High School Graduate*

**James Tsai**, son of Electronic Communication Technician Danny Tsai, graduated from Troy High School in Fullerton, High Honors.

#### **SERVICE PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

*College Graduate*

**Rebecca J. Chu**, granddaughter of Scheduling Systems Analyst Alfred Wang, graduated from Stanford University with a BS in Economics.

#### **SYSTEMS ENGINEERING**

*Employee Graduate*

**Ann P. John**, Senior Engineer, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a Masters in Business Administration, Beta Gamma Sigma Management.

#### **STOPS and ZONES**

*College Graduate*

**Veronica Kelley**, daughter of Property Maintainer A Raymond Kelley, graduated from CSU Dominguez with an MA in Public Administration.

#### **TREASURY**

*High School Graduate*

**Tiffani Nichole Brame**, daughter of Senior Secretary Avis N. Brame and Division 6 Bus Operator Harry Brame, graduated from Pomona High School.

#### **CENTRAL CITY DIVISION 1**

*College Graduates*

**Kinikia Davis**, daughter of Bus Operator E.E. Davis, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BS in English.

**Jane A. Festejo**, daughter of Bus Operator Jose J. Festejo, graduated from Antelope Valley College with an AA in Licensed Vocational Nursing.

**Michael John Payne II**, son of Leader Mechanic A Michael John Payne, graduated from University of the Pacific School of Dentistry with a DDS in Dentistry.

#### *High School Graduates*

**Joseph Ayala**, son of Bus Operator Gracie M. Ayala, graduated from Bloomington High School.

**Antonio Baptiste**, stepson of Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Rene Martinez, graduated from West Covina High School.

**Clint Jones**, son of Service Attendant Kimberly Smith, graduated from Ontario High School, Honor Roll.

**Jennifer Portillo**, daughter of Bus Operator Marcos A. Mejia-Portillo, graduated from St. Joseph's High School in Lakewood, Governor's Scholarship Award, Governor's Distinguished Mention in Science.

**Joshua Salazar**, son of Bus Operator Ruben Salazar, graduated from Victor Valley High School in Victorville, Honor Band for Rose Parade.

### **CROSSROADS DEPOT DIVISION 2**

#### *Employee Graduate*

**Diane A. Frazier**, Assistant Transportation Manager, graduated from University of La Verne with a BS in Organizational Management.

#### *College Graduates*

**Kelley N. Allen**, daughter of Bus Operator Huie H. Allen, graduated from UCLA with a BA in Sociology, Pre-med.

**Brandi J. Brown**, daughter of Assistant Transportation Manager Joseph Paul Brown, graduated from University of Arizona with a BS in Marketing and a BS in Business Entrepreneurship and a minor in Japanese, African American Honor Student and Eller College of Management Award.

**Meghan Butler**, daughter of Bus Operator Karen Butler, graduated from Long Beach City College with an AA in Liberal Arts.

**Maria Elena Figueroa**, daughter of Bus Operator Ana Ramirez, graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a BA in Cinema and Broadcast Arts.

**Courtney J. Harris**, daughter of Transit Operations Supervisor Michael B. Harris, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BA in English Education.

**David Marquez**, son of Bus Operator Jose D. Marquez, graduated from La Verne University with a BS in Criminology.

**Martin C. Reyes**, son of Bus Operator Manolo E. Reyes, graduated from Rio Hondo College with an AA in Pre-Nursing, Dean's List.

#### *High School Graduates*

**Bradley Atkins**, son of Service Attendant Leader Jack Atkins, graduated from Bloomington High School, Honor Roll.

**Antoinio Baptiste**, son of Service Attendant Antionette Martinez, graduated from West High School.

**Azzie Marie Carr**, daughter of Bus Operator Sidney Carr Jr., graduated from James A. Foshay Learning Center in Los Angeles, Beatrice Zeiger Scholarship and Special Congressional Recognition Award.

**Nichole Dayrit**, daughter of Mechanic A Leader Gilbert Dayrit, graduated from Saint Joseph High School.

**Thomas Patrick Gonzalez**, son of Bus Operator Paul Gonzalez and Bus Operator Martha Gonzalez, graduated from Diamond Bar High School, recognition in football and marching band.

### **NORTH LOS ANGELES DIVISION 3**

*College Graduates*

**Elvin Joe Gomez**, son of Mechanic A Leader Jose S. Gomez, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with a BS in Industrial Technologies Engineering.

**Nelson N. Martinez Jr.**, son of Bus Operator Nelson N. Martinez Sr., graduated from CSU Los Angeles with a BA Social Science, Deans List.

**Loraine Raymundo**, daughter of Mechanic Fernando Raymundo, graduated from CSU Northridge with a BS in Business Administration-Marketing.

*High School Graduates*

**William Aguinaldo**, son of Mechanic A Wilson Aguinaldo, graduated from Norte Vista High School in Riverside, California Scholastic Federation.

**Tyler M. Clemonds**, son of Bus Operator Richard M. Carter, graduated from Renoldsburg High School in Columbia, Ohio, honor roll.

**Elise S. Gonzalez**, daughter of Bus Operator Paul F. Gonzalez, graduated from Holy Family High School in Glendale.

**NON-REVENUE DIVISION 4**

*High School Graduates*

**Da’Juan Clark**, son of Service Attendant Charonne Ray, graduated from Fremont High School in Los Angeles, full Scholarship to UNLV and made All City in football.

**Renee Hess**, daughter of Lead Mechanic A Sammy Hess, graduated from Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights.

**Jesse A.Q. Senteno**, son of Service Attendant Sandra C. Senteno, graduated from Whittier High School.

**ARTHUR WINSTON DIVISION 5**

*Employee Graduate*

**Renee M. Dixon-Turner**, Transit Operations Supervisor, graduated from Los Angeles Southwest College with an AA in Business.

*College Graduates*

**Chloe Mae Lerit**, daughter of Mechanic A Felix Lerit Jr., graduated from St. Matthias High School in Downey, Salutatorian.

**Jamari Roland-Perez**, son of Bus Operator Juan A. Perez, graduated from UC Riverside with a BA in Sociology, Second Lt., U.S. Army.

**Marlene Soto**, daughter of Bus Operator Bernardo Soto, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BA in English.

*High School Graduates*

**Doneisha Barr’e**, granddaughter of Bus Operator Ronald E. Barr’e, graduated from King Drew Medical Magnet High School, Scholastic Achievement Award, and Senior Class President.

**Derric Durrell Coleman-Mays**, son of Bus Operator Trisha Mays and Division 18 Bus Operator Kevin Mays, graduated from California Technical High School in Los Angeles.

**Porche Edwards**, daughter of Bus Operator La’Shon Edwards, graduated from Palisades Senior High School.

**Ka’saya Hinton**, daughter of Bus Operator Lee Hinton, graduated from Carson High School.

**Ascia McCullen**, daughter of Bus Operator Richard McCullen, graduated from Westchester High School, Advanced Student Program.

**Kristina Newman**, daughter of Bus Operator Gregory Newman, graduated from Westchester High School in Los Angeles.

**Demarie Sardin**, grandson of Bus Operator Gwendolyn Gainer, graduated from Crenshaw High School.

**Robert M. Turner**, son of Transit Operations Supervisor Renee M. Dixon-Turner, graduated from Crenshaw High School.

## VENICE DIVISION 6

### *College Graduates*

**Jerry M. Cole**, son of Transit Operations Supervisor Frank E. Cole, graduated from UCLA with a BA in Political Science, U.S. Army Cadet, U.S. Army Commission as 2nd Lieutenant.

**Camille Jackson**, daughter of Acting Transit Operations Supervisor Helen Jackson, graduated from USC with a BA in American Studies and a BS in Biology.

**Amber Lindsey**, daughter of Acting Transportation Manager Johnny R. Lindsey, graduated from UC Riverside with a BA in Accounting/Finance, Summa Cum Laude.

### *High School Graduates*

**Jennifer Cruz**, daughter of Bus Operator Luis Estrada-Cruz, graduated from Workman High School in Valinda.

**Mario E. Rodriguez**, son of Bus Operator Maria S. Rodriguez, graduated from Pioneer High School in Whittier.

## WEST HOLLYWOOD DIVISION 7

### *College Graduates*

**Brandy Huff-Elliott**, daughter of Bus Operator Derryl Elliott, graduated from Savanna College of Art and Design with a BA in Photography and Art Design.

**Stacie Kelley**, daughter of retired Bus Operator Alonzo Kelley, graduated from Southwest School of Medicine with an MS in Alternative Medicines.

### *High School Graduates*

**Larry Crane Jr.**, son of Bus Operator of Larry Crane Sr., graduated from Washington High School.

**La Porcha Hood**, daughter of Bus Operator Chaquela Mitchell graduated from Crenshaw High School.

**Ryan E. Oliver**, son of Bus Operator Gregory C. Oliver, graduated from Verbum Dei High School in Los Angeles, honor roll.

**Amber Nicole Parker**, daughter of Bus Operator Christopher Parker, graduated from Mayfair High School in Lakewood.

**Solester G. Watts III**, son of Bus Operator Solester G. Watts Jr., graduated from Page High School in Franklin, Tenn.

## WEST VALLEY DIVISION 8

### *College Graduates*

**Krystal Clay**, daughter of Bus Operator Luther Philyaw, graduated from College of the Canyons with an AA in Psychiatry.

**Heather Marie Kear**, daughter of Bus Operator Thomas Impliazzo, graduated from Loyola Marymount University with an MA in Education, Summa Cum Laude.

**Megan Parks**, daughter of Bus Operator Jay Parks, graduated from Mount Saint Mary's College with a BS in Biology.

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY DIVISION 9

### *College Graduates*

**Carlos Bacilio Cortez**, son of Bus Operator Bacilio A. Cortez, graduated from University of La Verne with an MA in Public Administration.

**Barbara Estrada**, daughter of Bus Operator Rolando Marroquin, graduated from CSU Dominguez Hills with a Teaching Credential in Special Education.

**Joseph Armando Jimenez**, son of Bus Operator Debbie A. Florez and Rail Transit Operations Supervisor Armando Jimenez, graduated from Washington State University with a BA in Sports Management and a minor in Business Administration.

**Lisa Rubio Jimenez**, daughter of Bus Operator Debbie A. Florez and Rail Transit Operations Supervisor Armando Jimenez, graduated from Washington State University with a BA in English and Women Studies, Honors.

**Danielle Purcell**, daughter of Mechanic A Leader Rick Purcell, graduated from UCLA with a BS in Political Science.

**Stacie Ready**, daughter of Mechanic A David Bricker, graduated from CSU Long Beach with an MS in Occupational Studies, honors.

**Theodore Sagun**, son of Fare Collections Technician Jesus S. Sagun, graduated from CSU, Los Angeles with a BA in Mathematics.

**Elvia Villarreal**, daughter of Bus Operator Francisco Villarreal, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BS in Business Administration.

#### *High School Graduates*

**Victor S. Aguilar**, son of Bus Operator Victor M. Aguilar, graduated from Northview High School in Covina.

**Sarah Bricker**, daughter of Mechanic A David Bricker, graduated from Bonita High School in La Verne.

**Taurean Compton**, son of Bus Operator Ceclia Smith, graduated from Azusa High School, All-League in football and track.

**Alexander Lozano**, daughter of Mechanic A Jaime D. Lozano, graduated from West Covina High School.

#### **GATEWAY DIVISION 10**

#### *Employee Graduates*

**Socorro Cisneros**, Bus Operator, graduated from East Los Angeles College with an AA in Liberal Arts.

**Udoamaka Obiekea**, Bus Operator, graduated from Compton College with an AA in General Studies.

#### *College Graduates*

**Raquel Monique Cooks Johnson**, granddaughter of Bus Operator Robert W. Cooks, graduated from Stanford University with a BA in African American Studies and a BS in Human Biology.

**Tony Antien Lee**, son of Bus Operator Keith C. Lee, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BS in Computer Science.

**Elvira Jackelyne Lopez**, daughter of Bus Operator Rosario Lopez, graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a BS in Accounting.

**Maria Del Rosario Lopez**, daughter of Bus Operator Rosario Lopez, graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a BS in Accounting, honors.

**Ronald Rhames**, husband of Bus Operator Carla K. Robinson-Rhames, graduated from Trade-Technical College with an AA in Computer Science.

#### *High School Graduates*

**Crystal Aguilar**, daughter of Bus Operator Raul V. Aguilar, graduated from Pacific Palisades Charter High School, Honor Roll.

**Khris Aguilar**, son of Bus Operator Raul V. Aguilar, graduated from Pacific Palisades Charter High School.

**Karisa K. Cano**, daughter of Bus Operator Gloria Mercado, graduated from El Monte-Rosemead Adult School.

**Kamie Charisse Cravin**, daughter of Bus Operator Virgil Cravin, graduated from Paramount Academy High School.

**Veronica Kelly**, daughter of Bus Operator Paul S. Kelly, graduated from Workman High School in the City of Industry, honor roll student.

**Tony L. Ortiz**, son of Bus Operator Gloria Mercado, graduated from El Monte-Rosemead Adult School.

**Paul Ross Robertson**, son of Bus Operator Robbi Chavez, graduated from Whittier High School, Bob Chandler Award.

**Terquana Robinson**, daughter of Bus Operator Terri Shannon, graduated from Dorsey High School.

**Antoine Taylor**, son of Bus Operator Vincent W. Ward, graduated from Pasadena High School.

**Gabriela Valenzuela**, daughter of Bus Operator Angel S. Valenzuela, graduated from Belmont High School in Los Angeles, high honors.

**Cody Maurice Vernon**, grandson of Transit Operations Supervisor Jeannette Mayo, graduated from Lackland High School.

#### **METRO BLUE LINE DIVISION 11**

##### *College Graduate*

**Brian Dinh**, son of Maintenance Specialist Danny Dinh, graduated from CSU Long Beach with an MS in Computer Science.

##### *High School Graduates*

**Tra'vell DuPre'e**, son of CCTV Observer Margaret Jameson, graduated from Jordan High School in Long Beach.

**Robert Escobar**, son of Train Operator Esmeralda Escobar, graduated from California High School in Whittier, honor roll.

**Albert Anthony Ramirez**, son of Train Operator Albert Ramirez, graduated from St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs.

**Da-Von Robateau**, son of Train Operator Polly Robateau, graduated from Bloomington High School.

**Jessica Elizabeth Uilo**, daughter of Assistant Rail Transportation Manager Davide F. Puglisi, graduated from Burbank High School, Scholar Athlete for Water Polo and Swim team.

#### **EAST VALLEY DIVISION 15**

##### *Employee Graduates*

**Emertha Jones**, Bus Operator, graduated from Cottonwood School of Ministry with a BS in Biblical Studies.

**Vladimir Vasquez**, Bus Operator, graduated from Los Angeles Harbor College with an AA in Liberal Arts.

##### *College Graduates*

**Jennifer Adkins**, daughter of Bus Operator Thomas Adkins, graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a BA in History, Cum Laude.

**Antonio Sanchez**, son of Bus Operator Antonio Sanchez, graduated from CSU Northridge with a BA in Anthropology, Cum Laude.

##### *High School Graduates*

**Verrina Cleveland**, granddaughter of Bus Operator Physaundra Allen, graduated from Crenshaw High School.

**Maritza Flores**, daughter of Bus Operator Jose Roberto Flores, graduated from Van Nuys High School.

**Shelly Shavonne Jones**, daughter of Equipment Records Specialist Sylvia A. Bentley, graduated from Narbonne High School, captain of varsity cheerleaders.

**Chris Munguia**, son of Bus Operator Humberto Munguia, graduated from Glendale High School.

#### **SOUTH BAY DIVISION 18**

##### *College Graduate*

**Siegren Lowery**, daughter of Transit Operations Supervisor Deborah L. Blair, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BA in Liberal Studies.

##### *High School Graduate*

**Nartisha Eleby**, daughter of Bus Operator James Eleby, graduated from Lakewood High School.

## **METRO RED LINE DIVISION 20**

### *Employee Graduate*

**Joanne Kimberly Harper**, Secretary, graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena with an MA in Theology.

### *College Graduates*

**Bethany Doddridge**, daughter of Stock Clerk Lee Doddridge, graduated from CSU Sacramento with a BA in Theatre Arts.

**Suann Hayes-Gose**, wife of Property Maintainer Leader Dieter Gose, graduated from CSU Northridge at Channel Islands with a BA in Sociology.

**Gilberth Josue Moir**, son of Train Operator Victor Moir, graduated from North Shore Community College in Massachusetts with an AA in Engineering Science, Honors.

**La’Nyce Je’Nell Pina**, daughter of Document Control Assistant Angela Pina, graduated from California Design College with an AA in Merchandising/Fashion Design

### *High School Graduates*

**Janon Burks**, daughter of Transit Operations Supervisor Donnette Burks, graduated from Bishop Montgomery High School in Torrance, Bank of America Achievement Award.

**Jelaine U. De Guzman**, daughter of Maintenance Specialist Wilfredo B. De Guzman, graduated from Downey High School.

**Susanna Ross**, daughter of Maintenance Specialist Gary Ross, graduated from Eagle Rock High School.

## **METRO GOLD LINE DIVISION 21**

### *College Graduates*

**Troy Christopher Epps**, son of Transportation Manager Duane Martin, graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity.

**Aishia T. Henderson**, daughter of Train Operator Loretta Halliburton, graduated from University of Las Vegas with a BS in Microbiology.

**Stacey Rydell**, daughter of Rail Fleet Service Manager Bryan Rydell, graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a BA in Liberal Arts.

**Aaron Sims**, son of Train Operator Clark A. Sims, graduated from Grambling State University in Louisiana with a BS in Business-Marketing.

### *High School Graduates*

**Arcadio Alvarez**, son of Train Operator Ramon Alvarez, graduated from Chaffey High School in Ontario, Calif.

**Melvin R. Lesure**, son of Service Attendant Melvin R. Lesure, graduated from Etiwanda High School.

**Bibiana Linda Ramirez**, daughter of Train Operator Ruben Louis Ramirez, graduated from Pioneer High School in Whittier, Calif.

**Jeffrey Rydell**, son of Rail Fleet Service Manager Bryan Rydell, graduated from La Sierra High School in Riverside.

**Brandon Bennett Wells**, grandson of Service Attendant Debra Wells, graduated from Morningside High School in Inglewood.

## **METRO GREEN LINE DIVISION 22**

### *High School Graduate*

**Christina Martinez**, daughter of Train Operator Carlos Martinez, graduated from Calvary Chapel High School in Downey, Principal Honors.

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A Gold Line runs through it...



Rendering> Simulated Boyle Heights Mariachi Plaza Station

## FTA OKs \$490.7 Million for Gold Line Extension to East L.A.

### CEO signs \$600.4 million construction contract

- See ["Kudos for All"](#) for a full list of those who worked to gain funding Eastside Extension.

By ED SCANNELL

(June 1, 2004) The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved \$490.7 million in federal funding, Tuesday, for a six-mile extension of the Metro Gold Line from Union Station to Little Tokyo, Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles.

Execution of the federal Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) allowed CEO Roger Snoble to sign a \$600.4 million construction contract, Tuesday afternoon, to build the extension. The line is expected to begin service in 2009 through one of

What will be ...





the most densely populated areas of Los Angeles County.

"Metro appreciates the work of our entire congressional delegation which brought this important project across the finish line," said MTA Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky.

The \$898.8 million Eastside Extension is Metro's highest priority rail construction project. It will include eight stations and serve one of the most densely populated areas of Los Angeles County between its point of origin at Union Station to its terminus at Pomona and Atlantic boulevards. The extension is due to open in December of 2009.

### **Paved way for construction**

The signing of the Full Funding Grant Agreement followed a mandatory 60-day congressional review of the project. With Snoble's signing of the \$600.4 million contract, Eastside LRT Constructors can now begin construction of the Metro Gold Line extension.

Eastside LRT is a joint venture of Washington Group International, Obayashi Corporation and Shimmick Construction Corporation.

"This is truly a historic day for Los Angeles," said Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard. "I would like to commend everyone involved for supporting this critically needed project."

Roybal-Allard promised to continue working "to make sure adequate federal funding is provided to complete the Gold Line extension...."

### **'Couldn't be better news'**

"There couldn't be better news for the people of Little Tokyo, Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles," said Supervisor Gloria Molina. "This line will link them to the Metro Rail System and provide them with easier access to jobs, schools, medical facilities and places of recreation."

"The Eastside Extension project is an excellent example of a region coming together for a gratifying result," said Snoble. "We are pleased that the process has worked and I look forward to signing the contract to begin construction of this much-needed addition to the Metro System."

"These are tough economic times and regions across the country are competing vigorously for a share of a shrinking pot of federal money," said LA City Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa. "I am pleased that Congress and the FTA have recognized how much this project will improve the lives of thousands of people who live and work in the area this line will serve."



Rendering> Simulated East L.A. Civic Center Station



Rendering> Simulated Soto Station

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Rideshare's prestigious Diamond Corporate Award this year went to UCLA.



UCLA staff picks up the top award. Joining the group are Sherry Lewis, general manager fleet and transit operations, second from left; Penny Menton, associate director of transportation services, front row left; Renee Fortier, director of transportation services, and UCLA Assistant Vice-chancellor Jack Powazek.

## Employers Honored During 6th Annual Rideshare Diamond Awards Luncheon

By RICK JAGER

(June 1, 2004) Metro along with the Ventura County Transportation Commission recently honored employers in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties that demonstrated outstanding achievement in employee rideshare programs.

"In these times of high gasoline prices, it's never been a better time to share the ride, whether it be on public transit, vanpooling or carpooling," said CEO Roger Snoble. "We recognize these employers for their hard work throughout the year in encouraging their employees to rideshare."

The prestigious Diamond Corporate Award this year went to UCLA. The award was given in recognition of two decades of outstanding innovations in ridesharing.

UCLA began its vanpool program in 1984 and the program continues to provide cost-effective, safe and reliable transportation alternatives for their employees. UCLA continues to set the standard for other employers in the state.

### Diamond Award winners

Other Diamond Award winners included: Vertis, Macy's West, California State University, Dominguez Hills, American Apparel, City of Santa Clarita, California State University, Los Angeles, City of Westwood, City of Thousand Oaks, ARC Simi Valley, WellPoint, Johanson Technology, and

the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District.

Also, Warner Bros., The Walt Disney Company, Los Angeles Air Force Base, Direct TV, Candle Corporation, Boeing Satellite Systems, The Aerospace Corporation, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Raytheon Company, Warner Bros., Los Angeles World Airports, LAUSD and Fuller Theological Seminary.

Honorable Mention Awards were presented to: Avibank, California Institute of Technology, Cal State Northridge, The Getty Trust, Latham & Watkins LLP, Los Angeles Child Support Services, Los Angeles County USC Medical Center, Maguire Properties, Metropolitan Water District and First Data Corporation.

Metro Commute Services staff joined forces with the Los Angeles and Ventura County Transportation Commissions to present the awards.



Pictured are, front row, from left, Teresa Milliken, KFWB Traffic Reporter Jeff Baugh, and Donna Blanchard; second row, from left, Aileen Landau, Crossroads editor Jill Smolinski, Norma Elston-Adams and Sarah Zadok; back row, VCTC's Alan Holmes, Dominic Menton, Martin Buford, Valeria rader, Brenda Stevenson, Tony Hernandez and David Sutton.

The Rideshare Diamond Awards were presented during a special awards luncheon at the Millenium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

Nominations for the awards were submitted from employers in four categories: Innovative Rideshare Program or Strategy, Outstanding Marketing Program, Individual or Group Achievement and Shoestring Program.

A panel of judges representing the five county transportation commissions in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura reviewed the nominations and selected the winners.


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Back to> [FTA OKs \\$490.7 Million for Gold Line Extension to East LA](#)

## Kudos for All Who Worked for Gold Line Extension

(June 1, 2004) MTA Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky praised all those, Tuesday, who played important roles in securing \$490.7 million dollars for construction of the Metro Gold Line's extension into East LA.

In a statement, Yaroslavsky said:

"We want to give special acknowledgement to Reps. Lucille Roybal-Allard, Xavier Becerra, David Dreier, Jerry Lewis, Juanita Millender-McDonald, Grace Napolitano, Adam Schiff, Hilda Solis, and Diane Watson, Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, California Business, Transportation & Housing Secretary Sunne Wright Mc Peak, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and Mobility 21, without whose efforts this milestone could not have been realized."

"We are especially grateful to Chairman Richard Shelby (Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and Senate Transportation, Treasury and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee) and Chairman Ernest Istook (House Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee) for the careful review their respective committees gave the Eastside FFGA," Yaroslavsky said. "We also fully acknowledge the constant support the Eastside project has and continues to receive from President Bush, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and FTA Administrator Jenna Dorn."

"Among the distinguished Members of Congress who lent their support for the Eastside FFGA were Chairman Don Young of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Ranking member of the committee, Rep. James Oberstar," Yaroslavsky added. "Strong support was also registered by Chairman Bill Young of the full House Appropriations Committee and the Ranking member of that committee, Rep. David Obey. And lastly, we also want to acknowledge the helpfulness of Rep. John Olver, who serves as the Ranking member of the House Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The Metro Gold Line's Eastside Extension was green-lighted, June 1, by the Federal Transit Administration (See [FTA OKs \\$490.7 Million](#)). CEO Roger Snoble signed the construction contract that very afternoon. But, one crew of Metro Construction employees has been working for months to prepare the way for the project. Reporter Kim Sim profiles the agency's third party administrators.

PHOTO: GAYLE ANDERSON



## Metro's Third-Party Administrators Pave the Way for Construction

By KIM SIM

< From left, Lloyd  
Boucher, John Higgins  
and Bonnie Verdin.

(June 2, 2004) Power poles, cable lines, phone lines and other utilities don't just disappear when a major construction project such as the Metro Gold Line's Eastside Extension pops up.

Instead, it takes the work of the little-known but critically important third party administrators to get negotiations started and relocations going.

The eight members of Metro Construction's Third Party Department work with the "third parties" involved in a construction project, such as the Southern California Gas Company, Department of Water and Power and telephone and cable companies.

"We have a very good established rapport with these agencies," says Lloyd Boucher, senior third party administrator and lead administrator on the Eastside Extension. "We've established good credibility and we work well with them."

In the photos below, work crews move overhead utilities underground to accommodate the 10-foot street widening on 1st Street.

The third party administrators assigned to the Eastside Extension are coordinating the preparatory efforts for the project, all on a budget of approximately \$8 million.

"We issue work orders to various utilities that are relevant and we monitor their work," says Bonnie Verdin, senior third party administrator. "They bill us and we pay them."

Most of the early project work done by the third party administrators, however, revolves around advanced utility relocations. During the life of a project they work with city, county, state and utility agencies to complete designs, construct and accept the completed facilities.

To accommodate the 10-foot street widening on 1st Street, for example, existing power poles must be removed and new ones erected several feet back. Aerial, or overhead utilities, must be moved underground.

"We can't have any overhead wires," says John Higgins, manager, Third Party Administration. "Cranes, which will lift things sometimes 80 feet high, have to have the area clear from the overhead wires put in by utilities."

While Southern California Gas Company employees remove gas lines on 1st Street, DWP employees run power cables underground on Gless Street, through a newly created manhole in the middle of the street. The cables are then run back up to a pole on the other side of the street.



PHOTOS: KIM SIM

"It's a huge coordination effort and it's the third party administrators who help pull all that together," Verdin says.

### **Administrators are on-call**

"When you get out there in the field, there are so many different things that come up that you need to get resolution on," Boucher says. "If you stop the project, that's money being wasted. You need to keep the project going, get resolution right away."

When Boucher says "right away," he means right away.

The third party administrators are on-call 24 hours a day. In the event of an emergency, such as utilities damaged by construction activity, they will be at the scene within half an hour.

"We're there to help and assist the different agencies and utilities to ensure that they get the work done as described, on time and on schedule and hopefully within budget," Boucher says.

All relocations for the Eastside Extension should be done by the end of June.

"It's a time-consuming process," Verdin says of the work done by the third party administrators. "It's a huge undertaking, but it's been a lot of fun."

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## Metro Employees Make Summer Day Pass Promotion a Real "Hollywood Production"



PHOTO: JUAN OCAMPO

### ANATOMY OF A MEDIA EVENT

By DAVE SOTERO

(June 4, 2004) Metro's Media Relations Department holds dozens of press conferences a year. But the one it held May 28 at Hollywood/Highland to promote the "\$3 Dollar Vacation Getaway" was extra special, thanks to the efforts of scores of Metro employees.



Michael Lejeune says: Go  
Metro to the beach.

Metro made the event a real Hollywood production: Costumed characters (many of them Metro employees) representing key L.A. vacation destinations stepped off a Metro bus onto a red carpet greeted by cheering fans and paparazzi.

The event was planned just in time for Memorial Day weekend, the official start of the summer season, when families and their out-of-town visitors begin planning their summer vacation itineraries. With gasoline prices expected to hit \$3 by the end of summer, Metro sought to promote the \$3 Metro Day Pass as an inexpensive and convenient solution for visiting key L.A. area attractions.

And what L.A. destination is more popular to stage a media event than Hollywood, the premier tourist spot served by the Metro Red Line?



## Hooray for Hollywood

For the event, Communications Manager Fran Curbello secured the participation Johnny Grant, honorary mayor of Hollywood, and several destination venues, including The Hollywood Museum, The Egyptian Theatre, Chinatown, Olvera Street and Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific.



[Click here for more photos and more \(photos\).](#)

< Hollywood scene is reflected in the eye of Mr. Sea Otter. Photo by Roxanne Tan.

Communications Assistant Jennifer Salamanca organized a special Hollywood-bound bus full of Metro employees and others, who donned various costumes representing restaurants, beaches, airports, art museums, shopping, tourism, and more.

\* See [credit roll](#) for names of Metro employees who participated in the \$3 Day Pass media event

Characters included Marilyn Monroe, Groucho Marx, Mae West, Shaquille O'Neal (played by Metro's Cedric Collins), Metro Man (played by Metro's Sal Cortez), a giant sea otter, mariachis, and mummy warriors from Universal's "Revenge of The Mummy" thrill ride opening this summer.

Former L.A. Dodger Lou "Sweet Lou" Johnson also made a special appearance to promote game shuttle service to Dodger stadium from Union Station.

Metro's Master of Ceremonies was none other than Marketing DEO Warren Morse, who led a news conference program consisting of Johnny Grant, L.A. City Councilman Tom LaBonge, and executives representing Universal Studios Hollywood, LA Inc. the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and ExperienceLA.com.

ExperienceLA.com has identified nearly 1,000 county destinations accessible via the Metro system.

Metro's Creative Services department, directed by Michael Lejeune, made the event a one-of-a-kind experience. With the assistance of Sharleen Yoshimi, the department designed oversized day passes, pole banners and other materials. The



Former L.A. Dodger Lou "Sweet Lou" Johnson with Shaquille O'Neal as interpreted by Metro Security Officer Cedric Collins.

department even created a special bus advertisement promoting the \$3 vacation.

Metro Transit Security, the Metro Red Line Operations Center and the L.A. County Sheriff's Department also ensured that the event ran smoothly from start to finish.

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**CREDIT ROLL>** Special thanks to Metro employees for their participation in the \$3 Day Pass media event: \* Jennifer Salamanca \* Valerie Wade \* Running Wolf \* Sal Cortez \* Michael Lejeune \* Julia Salinas \* Prince Mitchell \* Paula Carvajal \* Jim Montoya \* Dino Gutierrez \* Bob Vandiver \* Martin Buford \* Anthony Lawson \* Luis Inzunza \* Raul Naranjo \* Eva Gutierrez \* Amna Imam \* Cedric Collins \* Regino Buenostro \* Angela Pina \* Audrey Turner \* Cora Hooks \* Cynthia Garrett \* Teresa Milliken \* Michelle Cardenas \* Michael Flores \* Gloria Guerra \* Fran Curbello \* Erik Salazar \* Metro Bus Operations Center \* L.A. County Sherrif's Department \*

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## A LETTER TO EMPLOYEES FROM CEO ROGER SNOBLE

June 4, 2004

It was a real cliff-hanger, but we got some very good news this week. The Federal Transit Administration approved our funding for the Metro Gold Line extension to East Los Angeles.

And, with what seemed like only minutes to spare, I was able to sign the construction contract that will enable us to hold a groundbreaking to officially launch Metro's next big rail project. Piece by piece, we're knitting together a world-class rail transportation system for LA County.

It took genuine teamwork by many people on many levels of our organization to make this happen. It's impossible in this memo to mention everyone who helped, but I want to recognize their efforts.

Our Board members and elected officials at the local and state levels, and in Congress, all worked closely together to gain approval for the funding. Their enthusiasm for the Metro Gold Line extension can be attributed in great part to the Countywide Planning Department, and especially the Central Area Team. The team did so much to develop and promote the project that provided to everyone the confidence in our ability to complete it on time and on budget with our Project Management Construction team.

We also can thank our Government Relations, Community Relations and Public Relations departments for their work in the public arena. Their efforts helped ensure that elected officials, the public and the media understood the need for and support for this important addition to our regional rail network.

Beyond those who were directly involved, I believe the reputation Metro has gained over the years as a safe, efficient, customer-oriented transit agency set the tone for our success. For that we can thank all those who plan, construct and operate our Metro Rail and Metro Bus systems.

Congratulations and many thanks to all of you! Now, let's move forward to serve our customers and our region.

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## Final Reminder: 2004 Metro Graduation Celebration

- Download and print your ["2004 Graduates Form"](#) here. (PDF)

(June 4, 2004) Got a graduate in the family?

This is the final reminder for employees who plan to submit a listing for the 2004 Metro Graduation Celebration Honor Roll. The deadline for submission is June 17.

If you or someone in your immediate family graduated last winter or will graduate this semester from college, vocational school or high school, myMetro.net wants to know.

The names of MTA employees and the children, grandchildren and spouses of employees who graduated will be published in a special "MTA Honor Roll" and posted, June 24, on the myMetro.net web site.

To be included in the annual listing, employees must fill out and submit a "Graduation Celebration" form by June 17.

Forms are being delivered to all work locations. They also are available in a .pdf file on the Intranet, in the MTA Research Center library, in the Employee Center and in the cafeteria lobby.

Graduation Celebration forms also are available by mail or FAX by contacting Communications Manager Bill Heard at 922-7479.


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## FY 2005 Budget, Extra Bus Service Hours on Board Agenda

(June 4, 2004) The MTA Board has scheduled a workshop for 9:30 a.m., Monday, to consider adopting the FY 2005 budget and adding more Metro Bus revenue service hours.

The Board will consider adopting Metro's FY 2005 budget with planned expenditures totaling \$2.9 billion. The proposed budget, which is \$89 million more than FY 2004, includes 8,820 full-time positions, a decrease of 233 from the previous fiscal year.

The proposed budget also includes \$977.9 million for bus and rail operations, \$836.1 million for regional programs and subsidies; \$679 million for capital projects; and \$306 million for debt service, among other expenditures.

The spending plan includes a 2.5 percent pay-for-performance salary increase for non-contract employees and wage increases for union employees according to labor agreements.

### More revenue service hours

Item 2 on the workshop agenda is a motion to add 208,250 Metro Bus revenue service hours by December 2004 in order to comply with the federal Consent Decree.

Total projected cost of the extra hours is \$11.3 million, which would be included in the FY 2005 budget for bus service expansion.

Approving the motion also would add 119 bus operators, 12 service attendants and four transportation operations supervisors to staff the extra revenue service hours.

### Other actions

Other actions on the Board's agenda include a motion to restore the entire funding of the Immediate Needs Program for FY 2005 using the "Incentive Program" funds contained in the Proposition A Discretionary Funds. The motion would set certain conditions on use of the funds.

Another motion would direct MTA staff to develop allocation and administrative guidelines to ensure that Proposition A Incentive funds are programmed "for the purpose for which they were allocated...." The staff would be directed to report back to the Board on the issue.



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Deputy Jim Amann with German Shepherd Dana, at left, and Deputy Rich Faulk with Belgian Malinois Deborah, at right, patrol transit areas in search of suspicious items. Photos by Sarah Winfrey.



**Canine ‘Deputies’ Dana and Deborah are on the Job at Metro**

By SARAH WINFREY

(April 7, 2006) For the Transit Service Bureau’s Canine Services Detail, the day begins early. At 5 a.m., they start patrolling Metro buildings and rail stations.

Deputies Jim Amann and Rich Faulk are just getting into the routine of patrolling with their new partners: Dana, a German Shepherd who has a confident swagger, and Deborah, a Belgian Malinois who can’t wait to get out into the field.

The deputies and their bomb-sniffing dogs recently completed the 10-week training program at the Transportation Security Administration’s Explosives Detection Canine Handler Course at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Amann and Faulk were paired with Dana and Deborah during the first week of training. “I’m a dog lover,” says Amann. “I thought it would be great to come to work every day and work with dogs.”

Trained with their handlers, Dana and Deborah, learn the tasks of searching crowded areas, such as Metro, for explosives.





The LASD Canine Services Detail handlers are still getting the dogs accustomed to their new surroundings.

**Learning the territory**

The Canine Services Detail teams have been at Metro for only three weeks and the handlers are still getting the dogs accustomed to their new surroundings.

“We are trying to get the dogs exposed to all different environments – trains, luggage and Union Station where everyone comes in,” Faulk says. “Any particular place that we think they’ll be.”

The handlers turn the work of detecting scents into a game for the dogs. For every correct discovery, the dogs get to play with their favorite chew toy. When the dogs find something suspect they react with a “passive response,” such as sitting down.

Faulk stresses the importance of making sure the dogs get used to the different environments. The teams patrol escalators, trains, buses and other areas they might have to search for suspicious items.

When the deputies have to do office work, Dana and Deborah take a break by curling up under handler’s desks. Quietly, yet impatiently, waiting to go out into the field again.

**Sensory abilities**

Choice breeds for bomb detection and security patrols are German Shepherds, Belgian Malanois, and Labrador Retrievers because of their even temperament and sensory abilities.

Dana and Deborah were purchased from a European breeder. Both listen and respond to English commands, but Deborah can understand “let go” and “stay” in Dutch.

Dana and Deborah are not the only working canines at Metro. Other teams of dogs and handlers are used in search and rescue and firearms detection. Two Metro Security also has two canine teams trained in explosive detection.

The typical dog performs 10 to 12 years of service and if their handlers wish to adopt the dogs after retiring, they can submit a request form for them.

"You want to work with them as much as you can," Faulk says, "you build a rapport with them."

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## Employee Center to Remain Open

(June 8, 2004) The Metro Employee Center – with its logo items, events tickets and other services – will remain open but change is coming soon.

The Center is in transition, says Chief Communications Officer Matt Raymond, but the plan is to increase recreational activities funded by profits from sales and to encourage more employee participation.

In maintaining the Center's profitability, the line of merchandise may be streamlined but the most popular items, including sundries, will be retained, Raymond said.

"The Employee Center is intended to serve employees and is important to our morale," said Raymond. "But, we want to increase the number of activities we offer and to be more inclusive by encouraging employees to participate in the activities."

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An honor guard of marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen stood watch over the flag-draped casket containing the former President's remains.

photos by bill heard



## Metro Buses Shuttled Mourners to Pay Respects to President Reagan

By BILL HEARD, Editor

special report: [Gallery](#)

(June 8, 2004) Metro Bus Operator Tony Bryant of West Valley Division 8 drove the first shuttle bus up the winding road to the Reagan Library, Monday morning.

The 12-mile trip from the Moorpark College parking lot is a journey to the past for thousands of Americans from across the land. They have come to Simi Valley to pay their respects to President Ronald Reagan, who died June 5 at age 93.

Traffic quickly built up on the 118 Freeway, Monday afternoon, and crawled down the access roads to the college. The jam had eased up by Tuesday morning. Finally out of their cars, many mourners have stood in line for hours for scrutiny by White House security officers sent out from Washington, D.



Sheriff's Deputy Winston Grant and Metro Bus Operator Tony Bryant were a team, making repeated trips from Moorpark College to the Reagan Library.

C.

Once past security, however, it has been only a short wait to board a lineup of some 25 Metro buses. Simi Valley Transit also provided four coaches on Monday.

If the solemn procession of mourners at the Reagan Library is the heart of the event, the shuttle service has been the powerful support. As many as 60,000 people may make the trip before visiting is suspended Tuesday night.

### Shuttle staffing

Approximately 95 Metro Bus operators, drawn from a number of divisions, are staffing the shuttle bus runs. They are backed up by 14 supervisors and a group of field technicians

Most of the Metro employees assigned to the shuttles won't have an opportunity to pay their respects at the Library, but many consider their work during the event to be a tribute.

"We lost a great man," said Metro Bus Operator Jose Perez of Crossroads Depot Division 2. "I'm so proud to be involved taking people up to the Library today, and proud to be with Metro."

Luckily, according to Metro's on-site coordinator, George Trudeau, the cool weather brought by the heavy overcast has kept the crowds comfortable and the buses running smoothly. The buses made the round trip with seated loads.

"We want the people to have a good experience on a Metro bus," said Trudeau. "Also, pulling up the steep hill to the Library, we don't want to be overloaded."



A solemn procession of people from all walks of life circled the former President's casket hour after hour and throughout the night.

### Visiting hours extended

Shuttle service began at about 11 a.m., Monday. Because of the overwhelming crowds, however, Reagan Library officials extended it from the original closing time of 6 p.m., Tuesday, until 10 p.m. – a period of about 35 hours.

And as the day drew on, Metro employees were keeping the buses rolling.

"The job always comes down to the operators," said San Fernando Valley General

Manager David Armijo. "They're our best ambassadors. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many of them to be out here and do something very good and important for the public."

As hundreds lined up outside the hilltop facility, Monday, Library Executive Director Duke Blackwood admired Metro's shuttle operation.

"Clearly, the tens of thousands of people who want to come up here are able to do so because of what you all are doing," he said. "It's an absolute Godsend to us."

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## Metro Buses Shuttled Mourners to Pay Respects to President Reagan



TOS Steve Rank directs mourners onto a departing bus at the Reagan Library. Shuttle buses transported some 1,800 an hour to the hilltop site.



From a media encampment on the slope above the Reagan Library, reporters from around the world broadcast news of the outpouring of sympathy.



Hundreds of mourners brought floral tributes, personal notes and other remembrances to the waiting area at Moorpark College. One person wrote: "Thank you for inspiring so many of us. Rest in peace."



As thousands waited to enter the security tent, officers took time to thoroughly check each person, including this woman who is being "wanded" for metal.



After paying respects to the President, many mourners stopped to sign the condolences book.

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At the heart of the shuttle operation were, from left, on-site coordinator George Trudeau, Sheriff's Lt. Pat Jordan, who led the Transit Services Bureau contingent, Division 15 Maintenance Manager John Roberts and General Manager David Armijo of the San Fernando Valley Service Sector.

Photos by Bill Heard



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PHOTOS BY BILL HEARD



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## Former Customer Agent Found Guilty of Stealing Monthly Passes

(June 9, 2004) A former Metro customer service agent has been found guilty of two counts of grand theft for selling monthly passes he stole from shipments intended for pass vendors.

Found guilty in Van Nuys Superior Court, May 20, Kevin Moore, 41, was sentenced to 36 months' probation and is required to perform Caltrans community service, pay restitution to the court and forfeit all money held as evidence.

A customer service agent and TCU employee since August 1990, Moore confessed to selling 43 stolen September 2003 monthly passes with a value of \$1,806. He was terminated by MTA, Sept. 29, 2003 for gross misconduct – theft.

In August 2003, MTA received calls from two vendors, who reported missing 20 and 23 monthly passes from their September 2003 fare media stock shipment. Further investigation by Senior Investigator Roy Romero of the Risk Management Special Investigations Unit, found that Kevin Moore packed the two shipments.

## Sold two missing passes

As the investigation continued, Romero arranged for two undercover agents to buy passes from Moore on Aug. 28, 2003. Moore sold two of the missing passes to the agents and was arrested on an initial charge of embezzlement.

"It was disappointing to find that one of our agents would create an opportunity to engage in theft," said Gail M. Harvey, executive manager, Customer & Vendor Services, "but even more disturbing are the facts that Kevin misrepresented the MTA and violated the trust and confidence of management and his co-workers."

"This type of behavior is unacceptable," said Communications Manager Vanessa Smith of Customer & Vendor Services. "We expect and must rely on the professional ethics and honesty of every MTA employee to uphold our core value of Integrity."

Passenger Relations Manager Tom Horne said, "We believe this is an isolated incident, but each employee should recognize that, individually and as a team, we are all accountable and have fiscal responsibility for safeguarding values and assets entrusted to us."

"It's always sad when it's our own," said Chief Communications Officer Matt Raymond. "As this agency continues to tighten security, hopefully everyone will get the message that it's just not worth it."




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## MTA Board Adopts \$2.9 Billion Budget for FY 2005

By MARC LITTMAN

(June 9, 2005) Metro directors adopted a balanced \$2.9 billion budget, June 7, for Fiscal year 2004-05.

The spending plan eliminates at least 233 jobs and sharply reduces administrative overhead to balance a structural operating deficit. Metro fares will remain the same.

"We have to live within our means," CEO Roger Snoble said in describing the austere budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2004. "This is not a happy budget."

"Our efforts to improve mobility in Los Angeles County have been slowed, largely because LA County may lose up to \$2.3 billion in state transportation funding between FY 2003 and FY09," he said. "However, we're still pushing forward with key projects such as the Metro Orange Line and the Metro Gold Line extension."

The budget is \$89 million more than the current budget. However, the cost difference is mainly due to the scheduled start of construction of the six-mile Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, this summer, as well as major construction work on the 14-mile Metro Orange Line transitway. Metro also is facing higher costs for fuel and security.

To offset these higher costs and dwindling state transportation funding, the budget pared 11 percent from non-labor expenses. These included more than \$7 million from such categories as travel, training, materials and supplies.

Metro employees received no pay increase this year but are budgeted for a 2.5 percent increase next year.

Snoble noted that there are several risk factors that could drive up Metro costs. These include the final settlement of health care contract issues with the union representing Metro maintenance employees, spiraling costs associated with the federal court Consent Decree order to improve Metro Bus service, workers compensation costs, and the volatility of energy prices to power Metro's Bus and Rail fleets.

## More than \$1 billion for buses

Nearly half the budget -- \$1.387 billion or 48.5 percent -- is earmarked for Metro Bus operating and capital expenses and support for municipal bus operators and paratransit programs countywide. Metro will take delivery of 130 new high-capacity buses in the next fiscal year including 30 new 60-foot buses.

## Rail program expands

The second biggest slice of the budget pie -- \$525 million or 18.4 percent -- will go for Metro Rail operating, construction and capital costs. Another \$55 million -- 1.9 percent -- is LA County's subsidy for Metrolink.

### **Funding for streets and highway programs**

The next biggest portion of the budget -- \$513 million or 17.9 percent -- is for highway and other regional transportation programs such as construction of freeway carpool lanes, freeway sound walls, street widening, better traffic signal coordination, grade separations at railroad crossings, bikeways, ride-sharing incentives, shuttles, and other local transportation programs.

The budget also includes funding for the Metro Freeway Service Patrol to help stranded motorists.

### **Debt service up slightly**

Metro's debt service next year will be \$306 million -- 10.7 percent of the budget. That's up \$9 million from this year for planned debt issuance primarily due to support the Metro Eastside Extension and the Metro Orange Line.

Rounding out the FY 2005 adopted Metro budget are expenditures for other governmental programs such as transportation planning, capital projects such as warehousing, legal and other expenses. These expenditures total \$76 million or 2.7 percent of the budget.

Metro funding comes from the farebox, local, state and federal governments and other sources such as lease rentals, investment income and advertising revenue.

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Children wave from the antique Metro bus on display at the Gateway Cities booth during the Bellflower Car Show.



### Gateway Cities Stops by Bellflower Car Show with Antique Metro Bus

By Franklin A. Holman

(June 09, 2004) The Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector recently participated in the Bellflower Car Show, where the Metro vintage bus on display was a hit. Among the classic cars, the big green Metro vintage bus stood out, especially since it was one of the vehicles that you could experience rather than simply look at.

The Metro appealed to all ages. Children had fun pretending that they were operators from the good old days. For some of the older attendees, the antique bus brought back memories of the past. Both adults and children picked up safety tips and Metro information from the Division Advisory Council, making the event fun and informative.

Metro Gateway Cities DAC members Dyana Elorriaga, Robert Rodriguez and Leonard Tellez hosted the special exhibit, along with mechanics, Chris Young and Ken Wu.

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PHOTO BY BILL HEARD



## Share Your Memories of President Reagan on myMetro.net

GO TO> [MEMORY BOOK](#)

- [Click here to submit your memory to myMetro.net](#)

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(June 9, 2004) Many of those who made the trek to the Reagan Library this week - waiting in line for hours to pay their respects - had fond memories of former President Reagan.

One letter to the President, placed with a bouquet of flowers at the Moorpark College shuttle bus waiting area, read: "Thank you for helping our people of El Salvador when we most needed. And thank you for changing my life and giving me the American Dream!!"

Another, signed by mourners named Camilo, Irene and Cora, exclaimed: "You tore down the wall!"

If you have similar memories you'd like to share with your co-workers, please send an e-mail to [myMetro.net](#) for possible use in a page of memories. Submissions must be no longer than 150 words. (The editor reserves the right to choose and edit submissions for posting on the Intranet.)

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## They're doin' great!

'How You Doin'?' awards for March and 3rd Quarter



**THIRD QUARTER FY04 BEST DIVISION** - West Valley Division 8 in Chatsworth turned in top performance records for the third quarter of FY04 and took home the top prize of \$1000.



**OUTSTANDING TRANSPORTATION DIVISION FOR MARCH 2004** - It's a tie! North Los Angeles Division 3, pictured above, in Cypress Park joins the honor roll for March alongside San Gabriel Valley Division 9 (pictured below) in El Monte. The Divisions ranked 1 and 2 in in-service/on-time performance categories.



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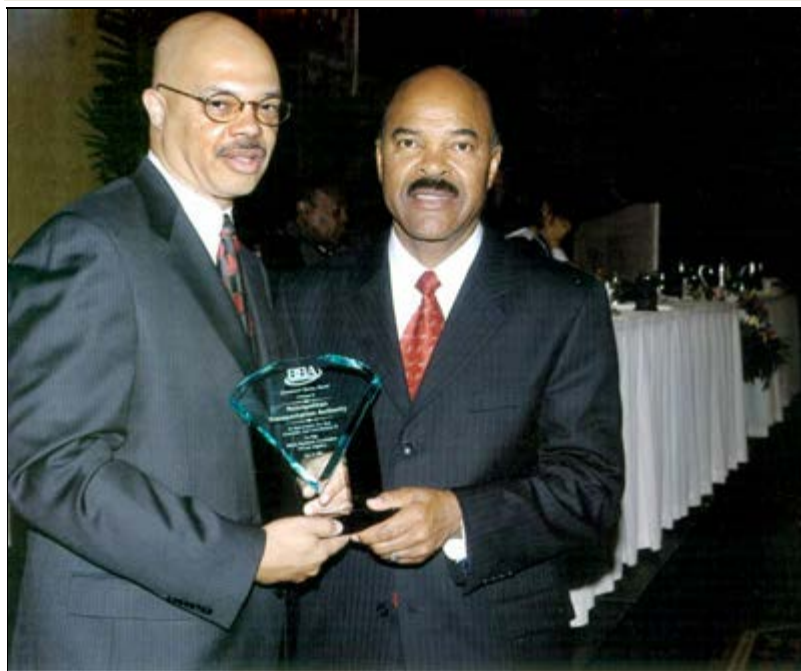
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Gerald Francis, General Manager of Rail Operations, receives Black Business Association's top honor from BBA President Ted Davis.



## Black Business Association names Metro "Government Agency of the Year"

- It's a 'five-peat' for Metro's Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department that strives for maximum small business participation in agency contracts.

By GAYLE ANDERSON

For the fifth time since 1992, Metro has received the 'Government Agency of the Year' award from the Black Business Association.

Metro is a top achiever in the 30-year history of the association, noted Earl "Skip" Cooper, BBA's Executive Director/Founder. "We have given the award to the agency's predecessors (RTD and LACTC) on a number of occasions, and this award marks the fifth time since 1992 that the agency's achievements merits this distinguished honor."

The BBA award honors government agencies that have been responsive in promoting economic development in the African-American community. In the last reporting period, which tallied an impressive \$75 million in contracts awarded to Disadvantaged and Minority-owned businesses, nearly \$10.9 million were awarded to African-American owned enterprises.

At the presentation on May 12, Gerald Francis, General Manager of Rail Operations, told an appreciative audience that Metro is honored to receive the BBA's "Government Agency of the Year" Award. "The

Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department is committed to ensure that all business opportunities have been reviewed and evaluated for maximum small business participation."

"Two units in the Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department that are maximizing small business participation are the Contract Compliance Unit managed by Tashai Smith and the Certification Unit managed by Joe Hernandez," said Linda Wright, Deputy Executive Officer for Metro's Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department.

The Contract Compliance Unit pursues maximum certified business participation and monitor contracts to protect the level playing field for the small business community, said Smith. "We evaluate all opportunities for scopes of work that can contract out to smaller firms, particularly those that are certified by one of Metro's Small Business Certification Programs. We recently implemented the shared responsibility program where select business units take a more active role to achieve opportunity goals."

"We are continuously looking at methods to better assist and serve the small business community," said Hernandez. "Certification is a tool that eligible small firms utilize to access Metro procurement opportunities. Certification provides small businesses benefits not offered to other business interests such as: access to key procurement information, certification directories, an advantage to join consultant/contractor teams pursuing federal-funded projects and special outreach events designed solely for certified firms."

"Metro will continue its work at removing barriers that limit or prevent small businesses from achieving their potential," noted Wright.

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#### SIM CITY WEEKEND



Build your own city at planner James Rojas' marathon charette this weekend.

- *Learn the Art of City Building with James Rojas and Friends.*

The physical form of a city can be a work of art, says Transportation Planning Manager James Rojas, but it's a complicated process to build one. But if you're game to try, here's an opportunity to do it.

At a workshop or charette that begins Friday at noon and ends at 9 p.m. on Sunday, June 18-20, Rojas is inviting all interested planners, real estate moguls and former or future city czars to build a 20-foot by 3-foot model of a mega-metropolis from scratch.

The 20'x3' model will be created from small found objects and will be accompanied by a map to represent both the physical and paper planning process, said Rojas. A zoning map will to explore the how the zoning impacts the physical form of the city.

In the process, participants will have to consider zoning, transportation, floor area ratio, architectural design review, density, historic preservation, open space and all those other pesky details.

It's also a party, which goes to midnight on both Friday and Saturday nights, he said. Participants and/or wanna-be's may come and go at will.

The charette will be held at Gallery 727, located at 727 S. Spring St. in downtown Los Angeles. For more information, call Rojas at (213) 892-0918.



Urban planner James Rojas with an earlier model city slightly smaller than the 20-foot mega-metropolis that will emerge fully grown this weekend. (circa 1990 at MIT)





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**On the move-** Metro partners with Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce for a spirited discussion of transportation projects in the works. Pictured are, from left, David Briano, Pico Rivera Chamber President; Alex Clifford, Metro Gateway Cities GM; Metro CEO Roger Snoble, and Ray Maekawa, Director of Regional Planning, Gateway Cities Area Team.



## Metro CEO Keynote Speaker at Pico Rivera Quarterly Luncheon

By David Hershenson

Metro CEO Roger Snoble was the keynote speaker at the Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Luncheon at the Whittier Radisson Hotel on June 1, 2004. The event was attended by approximately 75 chamber members and others interested in hearing about transportation in the region.

Speaking at a podium surrounded by schoolchildren's entries in the FY03 Mobility 21 Art contest, CEO Snoble talked about some of the major transportation projects that are taking shape in the Gateway Cities region and throughout Los Angeles County.

Also attending were Metro Gateway Cities General Manager Alex Clifford and Gateway Cities Planning Area Team Director Ray Maekawa and Transportation Deputy DA McClain, who attended on behalf of MTA Director and Pico Rivera Councilwoman Beatrice Proo.

## Gateway Cities projects

Snoble announced that the Eastside Full Funding Grant Agreement had just recently been approved, and said the Eastside extension of the Metro Gold Line will greatly benefit the region. He also discussed other major Metro projects, such as the Metro Orange Line Transitway in the San Fernando Valley.

Since the majority of the audience lives and/or works in the Gateway Cities area, Snoble provided information on a number of multi-nodal transit projects, such as current and upcoming Metro Rapid Lines in the region, the I-710 Major Corridor Study along with the community advisory structure that is providing local input to the Oversight Policy Committee, and the I-5 Carmenita Interchange Project that is part of the plan to widen the I-5 freeway between the Orange County line and the I-605 freeway.

Other local transit projects noted included signal synchronization projects, freight traffic relief programs, HOV lane additions, and the San Gabriel River Bicycle Trail Rehabilitation.

Before taking questions, Snoble described the upcoming Rail-Volution and Mobility 21 conferences as important resources for transit information. He then invited guests to tour a shiny Metro Rapid Bus that was parked outside the door, and encouraged attendees to consider using public transit and carpooling whenever possible.

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## Metro Rapid Rolls, June 28, on Vernon-La Cienega, Soto Street

By ED SCANNELL

(June 17, 2004) The Metro Bus system's fastest on-street service comes to Vernon Avenue/La Cienega Boulevard and Soto Street on June 28.

The two new lines, 705 for Vernon-La Cienega and 751 for Soto, were announced at a news conference Thursday afternoon. Metro Rapid Line 751 will be the San Gabriel Valley service sector's first Metro Rapid line.

"Metro Rapid continues to attract new riders to the Metro System because it's safe and reliable and very fast service," said CEO Roger Snoble. "As the Metro Rapid System grows, more people in Los Angeles will be able to shorten their travel times."

Vernon-La Cienega Metro Rapid Line 705 will operate Monday through Friday, only, from approximately 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. The 13.8-mile line will run from Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevards in West Hollywood, terminating at Vernon and Santa Fe Avenues in the City of Vernon.

### 13-mile line

Soto Metro Rapid Line 751 will operate Monday through Saturday from approximately 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. The 13-mile line will run from Avenue 26 and Figueroa Avenue in Cypress Park to the Metro Green Line Long Beach/I-105 Station.

"We anticipate a brisk ridership level on Metro Rapid Lines 751 and 705 since they will operate across some of the most heavily populated and transit dependent areas in Los Angeles County," said Supervisor Gloria Molina.

Metro Rapid has generated significant gains in ridership on the seven existing corridors, attracting discretionary riders as well as people who depend on public transit.

"This is a big step forward for the Eastside's large transit-dependent population," said Los Angeles City Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa. "They are among the system's most dedicated bus riders by both necessity and choice, and they deserve the kind of first-class service Metro Rapid provides."

### Metro Rapid debuted in 2000

The Metro Rapid Bus Program debuted on Wilshire-Whittier and Ventura Boulevards in June 2000. Five other lines were added on Vermont



PHOTO BY ROXANNE TAN

Avenue and South Broadway (December 2002), Florence Avenue and Van Nuys Boulevard (June 2003) and Crenshaw Boulevard (February 2004). Metro Rapid buses will operate on a total of 28 lines when expansion of the program is completed in 2008.

Metro Rapid was selected as a semifinalist in Harvard University's 2002 Innovations In American Government Awards as an outstanding example of creative problem solving in the public sector.

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## Venice Division Cheers Visit of Olympic Flame

- Venice Beach was starting point of Los Angeles relay on Wednesday.

By GAYLE ANDERSON  
June 17, 2004 - Acting Transportation Manager Johnny Lindsey got the call around 6:30 a.m. at the Venice Division Wednesday morning from Bus Operations Control. The controller was announcing the arrival of the Olympic torch and asking divisions to make way for the relay as it traversed Los Angeles streets throughout the day.

"Although the relay stops traffic and draws onlookers, it takes just minutes to pass through," said Lindsey, "so it didn't cause any scheduling problems. What was really exciting was that the Olympic torch was going to pass right by the Venice Division."

Actor Sylvester Stallone kicked off the Olympic torch relay run at Venice Beach at 8 a.m., taking the flame from Mayor James Hahn. Stallone was the first of nearly 150 runners carrying the flame toward Dodger Stadium, each one using their torch to ignite one held by the next runner. The carriers included celebrities such as Ellen DeGeneres and Tom Cruise and Olympic stars like Janet Evans and Rafer Johnson.

Acting Transportation Manager Johnny Lindsey captured the sequence of events as the Olympic Torch Relay passed by Venice Division on the morning of June 16.







Lindsey didn't recognize the runner carrying the torch along this stretch of the relay route, but it was enough to see the flame and the pageantry that surrounds it.

He estimates about 30 employees saw the torch as it passed by Venice Division at 9:45 a.m.

"I grabbed my camera and we all ran out along with the rest of the community," said Lindsey. "We were waving and cheering. It was like a big parade, with music and announcements and flags. It was great!"



The relay that began in Venice passed through many Metro routes and Los Angeles communities, including Westwood, Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Koreatown and Boyle Heights, and ended at Dodger Stadium around 5:30 p.m. The flame departed for St. Louis later in the evening.

The Olympic Flame was ignited in Olympia on March 25, 2004 and began a 46,800-mile journey June 4. It passed through Africa and South America for the first time. The relay will make a final trip around Greece before arriving in Athens for the opening ceremony Aug. 13.


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## Carson Division Hosts 'Apprentices For a Day'

By RICH MORALLO

(June 18, 2004) They came. They saw. And they apprenticed at Metro.

Eight students from Washington Preparatory High School participated in an "Apprentice For A Day" program, recently, when they journeyed to Carson Division 18 to learn about working for Metro.

Metro's Shauneice Milton, a 1987 graduate of Washington High, helped welcome the students.

"Seeing the youngsters brought back great memories of my high school," said Milton, a Workers' Compensation supervisor.

Starting their day at the 290-bus division, the apprentices toured the bus yard, rode through the bus wash, and heard presentations on the history of Metro and of Los Angeles transportation.

Supervisors also talked about management duties and concepts, Worker's Compensation and safety priorities.

The students took notes on the maintenance side of the facility as Manager Ken Matsuno described how mechanics spend their day keeping the vehicles primed and ready, and the way service attendants tackle graffiti and remove gum from the coaches.

"Today was very interesting," said Cindy, an 11th grader. "I thought Metro just had people who drove buses. But there are different positions here. And I also learned that the operators are trained on how to deal with 'attitude' from some riders."

Capping the day at the Metro South Bay division was a skit by General Manager Dana Coffey and Senior Human Relations Analyst Jeannette Bell.

Playing the role of a Metro job applicant, Coffey showed the students both the right and wrong way to prepare for an employment interview.

PHOTOS: RICH MORALLO



Carson Division 18's Jimi Greene (at head of table) tells the apprentices about the day of a Metro operator. Below, Senior Human Relations Analyst Jeanette Bell provides apprentices tips on preparing for employment interviews.



"I learned that we can be anything we want to be," said Kevin, a freshman at Washington. "We shouldn't let anything hold us back as we strive for the best."

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## LASD Opens 68 Positions for Metro Rail Security Assistants

(June 18, 2004) The Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau will open 68 positions, July 1, for security assistants on the four Metro Rail lines.

Sixty of the fare inspectors will patrol the Metro Blue and Green Lines, while eight others will fill vacancies on the Metro Red and Gold Lines. Metro's FY 2005 budget includes funding for the Blue and Green Line personnel.

"If someone is thinking about a career in law enforcement, this is a first step," says Sheriff's Lt. Leo Norton. "It will give them an opportunity to learn what law enforcement is all about."

Norton said the Transit Services Bureau hopes to hire, train and prepare the new security assistants to take up their assignments by early October. The department currently has 42 security assistants on the job.

To qualify as a Sheriff's security assistant, applicants must be at least 18 years old, a high school graduate or hold a GED certificate.

Applicants must pass a preliminary background screening and must score at least 70 percent on a written test covering reading comprehension and inductive reasoning ability. Candidates also must have a California Class "C" drivers' license and must be able to meet certain strength requirements.

The monthly salary for a Sheriff's security assistant is \$1,801.21. Security assistants may be required to work evening, night, weekend and holiday shifts. For information on applying for the positions, call (323) 526-5611.

The first two fare inspectors – Security Assistant Vanessa Mack and her partner, Security Assistant Magdalena Soto – took their posts on the Metro Red Line on May 12, 2003.

Dressed in white uniform shirts and navy slacks, and equipped with radios, they were the first of a force of 50 fare inspectors assigned to Metro Rail.

Information: (323) 526-5611.



In addition to checking fares, Sheriff's Security Assistants Vanessa Mack, left, and Magdalena Soto keep an eye out for safety and assist patrons with directions.






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## Metro to Boost Revenue Service by 83,000 Hours, June 27

By RICK JAGER

(June 18, 2004) Metro will boost its revenue service by 83,000 hours effective Sunday, June 27.

Five new Metro Bus routes are being established and trips are being added to 51 bus lines as part of an effort to improve bus service and the efficiency of the Metro system.

On Monday, June 28, Metro will introduce two new Metro Rapid Bus Lines to provide service along La Cienega and Vernon Avenue (Line 705) and on Soto Street (Line 751) between the Long Beach Green Line station and Avenue 28/Idell. [\(Full story\)](#)

The other three new bus lines are Line 607 (Inglewood Transit Center – North Inglewood Shuttle), Line 684 (Shuttle from Pomona Transit Center & Brea Mall) and – during the peaks hours only – Line 376 (Limited Stop/Valley Blvd.) in the San Gabriel Valley.

Metro will provide additional service to the Hollywood Bowl this year. The service includes Line 652 (West LA/Hollywood Bowl Park & Ride), Line 657 (Torrance/Hollywood Bowl Park & Ride) and Line 163 (Hollywood Bowl Shuttle) from the Metro Red Line Hollywood & Vine station.


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## MTA Board to Consider Funding for More Bus Service Hours

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(June 22, 2004) A motion to authorize millions of dollars to fund an increase in bus revenue service hours is among a number of important issues before the MTA Board at its June meeting.

During the meeting, which begins at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, members also will consider motions to oppose certain bills – including one to rename the Metro Gold Line – before the State Assembly, expand the use of design-build construction, and develop a Sunday family day pass, among other items.

**Funding Extra Consent Decree Hours, Item 36:** The Board will consider a motion to use \$11.3 million from Metro's General Fund to finance 208,250 extra hours of bus revenue service required under the Consent Decree.

A ruling by the Special Master in January, 2004 required Metro to add a total of 290,000 annual in-service hours by December, 2004 to comply with the Consent Decree's load factors.

The agency will add 83,000 revenue service hours effective Sunday, June 27, and the remainder later this year. The June shakeup will include additional trips on 51 bus lines and the startup of five new Metro Bus routes.

Designating the \$11.3 million for Consent Decree hours is expected to impact future bus capital and bus procurements. The staff will review this as part of an overall review of the 10-year forecast to be completed in August.

**Positions on State Legislation, Item 34:** The Board will consider its position on three important bills now before the State Assembly. One would rename the Metro Gold Line, a second would create a new regional rail authority responsible for investing in myriad transportation projects and the third would allow hybrid vehicles on HOV lanes.

AB-712 (Liu) calls for renaming the Metro Gold Line – from Union Station to Claremont – as the Foothills Gold Line. The name of the rail line's seven-member construction authority also would change to reflect the new name.

Metro's Government Relations staff recommends opposing the measure unless amended to clarify MTA's responsibilities for setting project priorities, receiving and allocating funding. The bill would, in essence, create a separate construction and planning agency that would compete with MTA for federal funds.

The Government Relations staff also recommends that the Board oppose a draft bill creating a regional authority for investment in transportation (RAIT). The Southern California Association of Governments has proposed the language creating RAITs.

According to a report to the Board, the proposed language would give RAITs "very broad powers that directly conflict with the authority of the MTA. This new entity would have the authority to oversee the financing, planning, construction and operation of transportation projects in the Los Angeles region."

The third bill, AB-2628 (Pavley), would permit hybrid vehicles that achieve 45 miles per gallon or better to use freeway HOV lanes with only one occupant and have free passage on toll bridges. The bill would give hybrids the same privileges as other ultra low-emission and super low-emission vehicles.

The Government Relations staff recommends that the Board support the measure with amendments requiring Caltrans to work with regional transportation planning agencies in developing plans and implementing the new law.

**Design-Build Contracting, Item 22:** The Metro Construction staff is recommending expanding the use of the design-build method for renovation, repair and construction at Metro facilities. Such construction traditionally has used the design/bid/build system.

A report to the Board notes that, in the past few years, the agency has experienced success with the design-build approach. Among the projects cited were installation of four traction power substations on the Metro Gold Line, storage tracks for 10 light-rail vehicles and construction of four-quadrant gates on the Metro Blue Line.

The motion before the Board would authorize the CEO to solicit and award design-build contracts for renovation, repair and construction at Metro facilities.

**Bridge and Tunnel Identification, Item 38:** The Board will consider a motion directing the staff to report on the feasibility of using the Metro logo to identify railroad bridges and tunnels used by Metro and Metrolink trains in order to "heighten motorists' awareness" of local transportation options.

**Sunday Family Day Pass, Item 39:** The Board will consider a motion directing the Metro staff to study the feasibility of developing a Sunday Family Day Pass. The pass could sell for \$5 for two adults and two children, plus \$1 more for each additional child.

**Bicycles on Trains, Item 40:** The Board will consider a motion directing the staff to study the feasibility of "converting the end car on the Metro Red Line subway to allow bicycles without any restrictions."

The motion notes that, although passengers can bring bikes aboard trains for no extra charge, bicycles are not allowed aboard trains under

most conditions during peak hours. “This does not respond to the need of those who use a bicycle...” the motion says.

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## Metro Riders Offered Discount for Latino Film Festival

(June 22, 2004) Metro riders who plan to attend the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival in July will be eligible for a special theater discount.

Metro riders can present a coupon at the box office and receive \$1 off the admission price for any regular screening. The coupons can be obtained aboard all Metro Buses and Metro Rail trains.

The film festival, presented by actor, director and activist Edward James Olmos, returns for its eighth annual event at the historic Egyptian Theater in Hollywood from July 16 to 25.

The festival will feature more than 100 feature films, documentaries and short films from Latino filmmakers from Latin America, Spain and the United States.

The film program will be supplemented by workshops, panel discussions and presentations featuring participants from the Hollywood and international film communities. For a detailed screening schedule, visit [Latinofilm.org](#).

It will be easy to reach the festival on Metro. The Hollywood/Highland station is just down the block and many Metro Bus lines also serve the Egyptian Theater.



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National NCMA President Chuck Woodside, second from right, is shown here with L.A. Gateway Chapter members, from left, Ed Velasquez, Bruce Feerer, chapter president Angela Brown and Lonnie Mitchell. NCMA Southwest Regional Vice President Brian Anrade is third from left.



### National President Installs NCMA LA Gateway Chapter Officers

(June 22, 2004) The president of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) officiated, Monday, at the installation of the L.A. Gateway Chapter's new slate of officers.

Chuck Woodside installed Senior Contract Administrator Angela Brown as the new president of the 75-member chapter. One of the fastest growing in the NCMA, the chapter expects to reach 150 members by year's end.

Also installed as Gateway Chapter officers for the new fiscal year were Ted Sparkuhl, vice president; Irene Patriotis, secretary; Maria Lechuga, treasurer; Barbara Gatewood and Veronica Hargrove, communications; Jeanne Kinsel and Pete Villalobos, education and training; Susan Dove, Pat Lane-Goodson and James Nolan, programs; Bob New and Vimol Katkaphan, membership; Leyton Morgan, Graalman Chair; and Jim Nolan, sergeant-at-arms.

In addition, L.A. Gateway Chapter founding member Ed Velasquez will be the new NCMA southwestern regional vice president.

The Gateway Chapter focuses on maintaining high ethical standards and professional integrity in public contracting. Organizations represented in the chapter include the Metropolitan Water District, Southern California Regional Rail Authority and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

The NCMA was formed in 1959 to foster the professional growth and educational advancement of its members.

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Metro holds first annual meeting for members of the five Service Sector Governance Councils.



PHOTOS: GAYLE ANDERSON

## Governance Council Members Attend First Annual Meeting

By ED SCANNELL

(June 23, 2004) Metro held its first annual meeting, Tuesday, for members of the five Service Sector Governance Councils.

In his opening presentation, CEO Roger Snoble outlined the agency's vision and mission and goals for the agency's strategic plan.

Deputy CEO John Catoe and CEO Roger Snoble preside over first general meeting of sector governance councils.



CEO Roger Snoble: "You are the eyes and ears of your area and have the capacity to provide intimacy with the communities you serve," Snoble said. "You know where stops ought to be and how service ought to be structured, and most importantly, you have the power to direct staff to make changes."

Following Snoble's remarks, council members asked questions centering on the evolving role of the governance councils. He made it clear that the councils are not simply advisory boards.



CEO Roger Snoble greets South Bay Governance Council chairwoman Terisa Price and member Howard Sachar.

DCEO John Catoe underscored Snoble's remarks, adding that he expects the role of the governance councils to become more critical as the agency addresses the ever-changing transportation needs of Los Angeles County.

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## Groundbreaking for Transit-Oriented Housing in Lincoln Heights

(June 23, 2004) Transit-oriented housing development got another boost, Tuesday, with the groundbreaking for a 500-unit apartment complex near the Metro Gold Line's Lincoln Heights/Cypress Park station.

The \$100 million complex ultimately will include 500 units, most of which are intended for low- and very low-income seniors and families. The development is at Avenue 26, just two Metro Gold Line stops north of Union Station.

"By locating near the Gold Line, the people that live here will not only have an easier time getting to work," said Mayor James Hahn, "all Los Angeles residents will benefit through fewer cars on the road and less pollution in the air."

The project will be built on the former site of a pottery and furniture company. It will include a senior complex to be called Camino al Oro (Road to the Gold), a family complex called Tesoro del Valle (Treasure of the Valley) and a condominium complex. The Flores del Valle (Flowers of the Valley) family apartments will include a childcare facility.

"When we opened the Gold Line, we essentially linked this community to existing MTA rail lines that traverse Los Angeles County," said Los Angeles City Councilman Ed Reyes. "By creating housing at these rail lines, we are stepping into the future of housing for Los Angeles."

Amcal Diversified Corp. and Amcal Multi-Housing Inc. are building the housing development. -- *From City News Service*




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Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who chaired the MTA Board during FY 2004, hands the gavel to Mayor Frank Roberts of the City of Lancaster, who will head the Board for a year beginning July 1.



PHOTO: LAURA WOODWARD

### Yaroslavsky Looks Back on His Year as Board Chairman

(June 24, 2004) Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky spent a few minutes during his final meeting as MTA Board chairman reflecting on the agency's accomplishments during FY 2005.

Mayor Frank Roberts of the City of Lancaster will succeed Yaroslavsky as Board chairman. Roberts, who was elected to serve on the Board in April 1999 by the Northern Corridor Cities, will begin his chairmanship with the July meeting.

Yaroslavsky presided over the Board during a year of highs – the opening of the Metro Gold Line in July – and lows – the 35-day transit strike in October and November.

Construction of the Metro Orange Line transitway in the San Fernando Valley also hit its stride during his chairmanship. The most recent good news came with the award of federal funding for construction of the Metro Gold Line's Eastside Extension.

"We've done a lot as a Board," Yaroslavsky said in remarks at the beginning of Thursday's Board meeting. "This has really been a team effort."

He also praised members of the Metro staff for their support and accomplishments during the past year. "We've built a stronger team and I hope that spirit will continue during the next year."




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## Metro Governance Councils to Hold Meetings in July

By RICK JAGER

(June 24, 2004) Metro's community-based transit service sector governance councils will hold their monthly public meetings in July to discuss various transit issues as they relate to their specific transit service sector.

Residents within the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys, Gateway Cities of southeast Los Angeles, the South Bay and the Westside/Central area interested in helping improve Metro Bus service in their communities are invited to attend the meetings.

The following is a list of Metro governance council meeting times and locations:

- **Metro Westside/Central Sector**  
Thursday, July 1, 2004  
3 p.m. to 5 p.m. La Cienega Tennis Center  
325 S. La Cienega Blvd.  
Beverly Hills
- **Metro San Fernando Valley Sector**  
Wednesday, July 7, 2004  
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center Community Room  
6262 Van Nuys Boulevard  
Van Nuys
- **Gateway Cities Sector**  
Thursday, July 8, 2004  
2 p.m.  
The Gas Company  
9240 Firestone Blvd.  
Downey
- **Metro South Bay Service Sector**  
Friday July 9, 2004  
9:30 a.m.  
Carson Community Center, Room 209 A/B  
801 E. Carson St.  
Carson
- **Metro San Gabriel Valley Sector**  
Tuesday, July 13, 2004  
5 p.m.  
Metro San Gabriel Sector Office  
3369 Santa Anita Avenue  
El Monte


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## A Typical Kid – Who Wants to Work for Metro When He Grows Up

By RICH MORALLO

(June 24, 2004) Danny Elliott is your typical teenager. English is his favorite subject at North High School in Torrance. He listens to jazz, rapp and hiphop music. He 's also in the band where he plays the sax.



PHOTO: RICH MORALLO

Metro hopeful Danny Elliott

But Danny, who turns 16 next month, also has a passion for transit. He has visited all 12 Metro Bus operating divisions. He's taken 2,000 pictures of buses. And, he has attended the annual Bus Rodeos,

Danny's college plans: study hard and earn a business degree. And after college? Join Metro of course.

Wanting to work for the county's bus company is practically a foregone conclusion after years of traveling on Metro.

## Riding with his grandmother

"Ever since I was an infant I've been on Metro buses," explains Danny, as he describes how his grandmother would take him all over the city when he was six months old. The family lived in Gardena then and public transportation was the way to go since they didn't have a car.

The young man rides Metro bus lines on the weekends, sometimes hopping on Line 210 to travel the 11-mile route along Crenshaw Boulevard toward the South Bay.

Danny also keeps up to date with the latest Metro news. He recently checked around to find out when the new NABI 45-foot low-floor buses would arrive at the agency.

## Just likes Metro

"I just like Metro buses and the agency," exclaims Danny whose email address is – no surprise – *lacmta18@aol.com*.

Outlining his plans to work for Metro, Danny says, "I'd like to start out as a part-time bus operator, proceed to becoming a full-time operator, and then supervisor and manager."

In the meantime, he's made countless friends among the Metro staff. Recently, he attended division open houses at both Carson Division 18 and Arthur Winston Division 5.

"I see Metro helping a lot of people and I want to be part of that,"

Danny says.

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## Lancaster Mayor Frank Roberts to Lead Metro in FY 2005

By RICK JAGER

(June 25, 2004) Frank C. Roberts, mayor of the City of Lancaster, will become MTA Board chairman beginning July 1. Roberts has served as first vice chair since July 2003.



New Board Chairman Frank Roberts

"This upcoming year for Metro will be a positive one as we refocus our efforts in providing quality service to our customers," said Roberts. "The agency must, and will over the next year, begin to address customer complaints, get focused on serving the public, ensure that the region gets it's fair share of important federal transportation dollars and work closely with all Metro customers, including the 88 cities in the region in providing the best transportation services in the nation."

Roberts represents the North County area of the region, having been elected mayor of Lancaster in 1996 and reelected in 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004. Prior to his election as mayor, he had served as a member of the Lancaster City Council since 1992.

In addition to his current duties on the MTA Board, Roberts also serves on the boards of the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and Antelope Valley Transit. He also is director of the Los Angeles County Private Industry Council.

## Former college professor

Roberts retired as an Antelope Valley College professor after 38 years of service, 16 of which were as division chairman and the last 20 years as dean of Applied Academics and Technologies.

Roberts succeeds Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who had served as chairman since July 2003.

"It has been a monumental year and Supervisor Yaroslavsky has done an outstanding job in guiding this agency through difficult times," said Roberts. "We owe him a debt of gratitude for his efforts on behalf of the entire region."

Mayor James Hahn becomes the Board's first vice chair, with Supervisor Gloria Molina assuming the second vice chair position.

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Accepting the VICA Excellence in Business Advocacy Award are, from left, Deputy CEO John Catoe, Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky, San Fernando Valley General Manager David Armijo and CEO Roger Snoble.



PHOTO: MARTA MACK

### Valley Business Group Honors Metro with Major Award

(June 25, 2004) An influential business organization in the San Fernando Valley has honored Metro with its 2004 annual Excellence in Business Advocacy Award.

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) presented the award earlier this month to Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky and CEO Roger Snoble during a ceremony at the Sheraton Universal in Universal City.

"VICA is recognized as one of the most prominent business organizations in the Valley," said Yaroslavsky, "and it is an honor to be recognized by this group and its members."

Other VICA 2004 award winners included Wells Fargo, Precision Dynamics Corp., Win-Win Workplace Solutions and ONEgeneration, a Van Nuys child and senior care center.

Comparing the VICA awards to the Academy Awards, event co-chairman Larry Venema said, "Just being nominated for an Oscar is one of the greatest things for an actor, so this should be for business, as well."

### Metro participation honored

The Excellence in Business Advocacy award, which was presented only two years after the opening of the San Fernando Valley Service Sector office, honors Metro's responsiveness to the business community, interaction with VICA members and participation in the organization's activities.

"Metro is proud of the partnership we have formed with VICA and is pleased to be recognized as outstanding 'new VICA company,'" said Snoble. "We look forward to many years of continued collaboration to improve mobility in the San Fernando Valley."



The VICA "Excellence in Business" award is inscribed with "Outstanding New VICA Company: Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Agency."

Since being invited to join VICA in February 2003, Metro and Mobility 21 participants have teamed up with VICA for a trip to Washington, D.C., to seek transportation funding for the region.

In May, VICA sponsored a Mobility 21 Coalition meeting attended by more than 110 business and community leaders. VICA also has supported the Metro Orange Line project and has other interests in common with Metro.

"It is with great pride in our achievements as an integral part of the Valley community that I thank VICA and its members for this prestigious award," said San Fernando Valley General Manager David Armijo.

The Walt Disney Company sponsored the VICA award. Metro also has received certificates of recognition from the California Assembly and from the State Senate.


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## MTA Board Approves Funding for More Bus Service Hours

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(June 29, 2004) The MTA Board voted, June 24, to authorize funding for an increase in bus revenue service hours.

Members also approved motions to oppose certain bills – including one to rename the Metro Gold Line – before the State Assembly, expand the use of design-build construction, and develop a Sunday family day pass, among other items.

**Approved. The action includes funding for 119 more bus operator positions and four transportation operations supervisor positions.**

**Funding Extra Consent Decree Hours, Item 36:** The Board will consider a motion to use \$11.3 million from Metro's General Fund to finance 208,250 extra hours of bus revenue service required under the Consent Decree.

A ruling by the Special Master in January, 2004 required Metro to add a total of 290,000 annual in-service hours by December, 2004 to comply with the Consent Decree's load factors.

The agency will add 83,000 revenue service hours effective Sunday, June 27, and the remainder later this year. The June shakeup will include additional trips on 51 bus lines and the startup of five new Metro Bus routes.

Designating the \$11.3 million for Consent Decree hours is expected to impact future bus capital and bus procurements. The staff will review this as part of an overall review of the 10-year forecast to be completed in August.

**Approved, amending the motion on AB-712 (Liu) to authorize the CEO to work with all interested parties to explore alternatives and develop solutions. Positions on State Legislation, Item 34:** The Board will consider its position on three important bills now before the State Assembly. One would rename the Metro Gold Line, a second would create a new regional rail authority responsible for investing in myriad transportation projects and the third would allow hybrid vehicles on HOV lanes.

AB-712 (Liu) calls for renaming the Metro Gold Line – from Union Station to Claremont – as the Foothills Gold Line. The name of the rail line's seven-member construction authority also would change to reflect the

new name.

Metro's Government Relations staff recommends opposing the measure unless amended to clarify MTA's responsibilities for setting project priorities, receiving and allocating funding. The bill would, in essence, create a separate construction and planning agency that would compete with MTA for federal funds.

The Government Relations staff also recommends that the Board oppose a draft bill creating a regional authority for investment in transportation (RAIT). The Southern California Association of Governments has proposed the language creating RAITs.

According to a report to the Board, the proposed language would give RAITs "very broad powers that directly conflict with the authority of the MTA. This new entity would have the authority to oversee the financing, planning, construction and operation of transportation projects in the Los Angeles region."

The third bill, AB-2628 (Pavley), would permit hybrid vehicles that achieve 45 miles per gallon or better to use freeway HOV lanes with only one occupant and have free passage on toll bridges. The bill would give hybrids the same privileges as other ultra low-emission and super low-emission vehicles.

The Government Relations staff recommends that the Board support the measure with amendments requiring Caltrans to work with regional transportation planning agencies in developing plans and implementing the new law.

**Approved. Design-Build Contracting, Item 22:** The Metro Construction staff is recommending expanding the use of the design-build method for renovation, repair and construction at Metro facilities. Such construction traditionally has used the design/bid/build system.

A report to the Board notes that, in the past few years, the agency has experienced success with the design-build approach. Among the projects cited were installation of four traction power substations on the Metro Gold Line, storage tracks for 10 light-rail vehicles and construction of four-quadrant gates on the Metro Blue Line.

The motion before the Board would authorize the CEO to solicit and award design-build contracts for renovation, repair and construction at Metro facilities.

**Approved. Bridge and Tunnel Identification, Item 38:** The Board will consider a motion directing the staff to report on the feasibility of using the Metro logo to identify railroad bridges and tunnels used by Metro and Metrolink trains in order to "heighten motorists' awareness" of local transportation options.

**Approved. Sunday Family Day Pass, Item 39:** The Board will consider a motion directing the Metro staff to study the feasibility of developing a Sunday Family Day Pass. The pass could sell for \$5 for two adults and two children, plus \$1 more for each additional child.

**Approved. Bicycles on Trains, Item 40:** The Board will consider a motion directing the staff to study the feasibility of "converting the end car on the Metro Red Line subway to allow bicycles without any restrictions."

The motion notes that, although passengers can bring bikes aboard trains for no extra charge, bicycles are not allowed aboard trains under most conditions during peak hours. "This does not respond to the need of those who use a bicycle..." the motion says.

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## Metro Gold Line Employees Compile 327 Injury-Free Days

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(June 29, 2004) "Safety is everybody's business," reads a sign in the lunchroom at the Metro Gold Line yard. It's not just a slogan.

Since the beginning of this calendar year, the combined operations and maintenance team has compiled 327 workdays without a lost-time injury. That achievement was worth a celebration and praise from Metro Rail managers.

"This accomplishment set a bar for the rest of the agency," Transportation Manager Duane Martin told employees during a barbecue last Thursday.

Setting his sights on zero injuries for the remainder of the year, Martin said, "What we have accomplished makes that goal achievable."

The Gold Line's 44 maintenance employees and 50 transportation employees work three shifts in an environment rife with potential safety hazards. They're subject to trip and fall injuries walking over the tracks. Heavy equipment is constantly being moved around the yard and there are high-voltage electrical hazards.

### Being aware is important

"The electric trains are very quiet and you don't always hear them moving," said Maintenance Manager Brian Rydell. "Being aware of your surroundings is very important and we train on that constantly."

"Think about what you're doing," said Rick Flores, a rail transportation operations supervisor who often investigates accidents. "If you're not sure, stop and ask."

Safety is constantly emphasized at the Gold Line division. Bulletin boards carry Local Safety Committee information. The "safety corner" shows division progress, accident claims and safety tips. The division was the first to have a safety suggestion box.



Metro Gold Line managers Brian Rydell, James Poe and Duane Martin congratulated employees on their 300-plus injury free workdays during a celebration lunch. Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis, left, talks safety with Metro Gold Line Operator Andrew Bernstein.



Both Martin and Rydell credit previous Gold Line managers – Roman Alarcon and Tom Lingenfield – for getting the division off on the right safety track and Ed Boghossian of the Rail Operations Safety team for helping keep it there.

“Each and every person at the Gold Line has looked at their job and what they have to do,” said Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis. “They’ve teamed together and said, ‘We can make a difference.’ ”

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## The Facts of Metro's Case Against Oved & Associates

By ED SCANNELL

(June 29, 2004) The ruling against Oved & Associates and its principals stems from a series of legal actions.

In a lawsuit against Kajima-Ray/Wilson, a general contractor on the Metro Rail project, Oved alleged claims totaling nearly \$4 million. Instead of defending against Oved's claims, Kajima-Ray/Wilson entered into an agreement to waive any defenses to Oved's claims and "pass through" the claims to Metro.

More on this story at  
myMetro.net

[Court Orders Red Line](#)
[Subcontractor to Pay](#)
[Metro \\$5.2 Million](#)

In defending against the lawsuit, County Counsel's Office examined the conduct of Oved and its relationship with a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firm known as Star Iron Works.

The examination uncovered evidence of a sophisticated scheme that used separate, but commonly controlled, corporations to inflate claims, which Oved submitted to Metro.

Based upon this discovery, Metro filed a claim against Oved under the California False Claims Act seeking damages for the cost of investigating Oved's claims and penalties for the submission of false claims.

County Counsel's Office then found evidence that a representative of Oved had misrepresented its eligibility for DBE certification and obtained lucrative subcontracts intended for DBEs.

Metro also learned that Oved had taken over a legitimate minority contractor, Star Iron Works, and used it as a front to pass through inflated claims. Oved then siphoned off funds from Star Iron Works and left it in a state of financial ruin.

Much like Metro's case against the inflated demands of Metro Red Line contractor Tutor-Saliba-Perini, Oved's claims against Metro were terminated after the court found Oved's litigation conduct had been purposefully abusive and had prejudiced the ability of Metro to properly present its case.

The court found Oved had unreasonably resisted court orders to turn over financial information, "stonewalled" Metro's investigation and altered electronic evidence after the court had ordered the evidence preserved.


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## Court Orders Red Line Subcontractor to Pay Metro \$5.2 Million

- Company violated federal minority contracting rules
- Submitted at least 135 false claims

By ED SCANNELL

(June 29, 2004) A Los Angeles Superior Court judge has ordered a Metro Rail construction subcontractor and its principals to pay Metro \$5.2 million in damages and penalties for violating federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) regulations and submitting false claims during construction of the Metro Red Line.

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[The Facts of Metro's  
Case Against Oved &  
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The order by Judge Wendell Mortimer, Jr. follows his finding in March 2004 that Oved & Associates Construction Services Inc. and its principals, Pinhas Oved and Mary Harel, had engaged in a series of litigation abuses, including alteration of essential electronic evidence in violation of court orders.

Judge Mortimer also terminated Oved's claims against Metro and established Metro's claims against Oved as true.

In a similar case, Metro Red Line contractor Tutor-Saliba/Perini, J.V., was ordered in 2001 to pay damages and fees totaling \$63 million. The court ruled that Tutor-Saliba had submitted false claims for payment, violated minority subcontracting regulations and committed more than 1,000 acts of other unfair business practices.

A state court is expected to rule on an appeal by Tutor-Saliba/Perini later this year.

## Supports contracting community

"Metro is a strong supporter of the contracting community and we are committed to honoring our obligations under federal and minority contracting rules," said MTA Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky.

"Unfortunately there are a few unscrupulous contractors who will try to take advantage of the challenges that come with overseeing large public works projects," he said, "however, the court's judgment should serve notice to contractors that where the public has been defrauded, we will take the necessary action. Rulings like these provide the deterrent effect of preventing future fraud against Metro and other public entities."

The order granting Metro's request for \$5.2 million dollars in damages and penalties against Ovid & Associates was rendered after Metro submitted proof of over \$400,000 in actual damages, which were tripled pursuant to the California False Claims Act.

The court also found that Oved submitted a minimum of 135 separate false claims during the course of the construction. Each of these claims

subjected the Oved parties to a \$10,000 fine.

### **Violated 'Buy America' rules**

According to court documents the Oved parties were fined for violating minority contracting rules imposed on Metro by the Federal Government; fined for violating the "Buy America" regulations which prohibit the purchase and installation of foreign steel and fined for presenting claims for work either not performed or for exaggerated amounts.

In addition to the judgment, Metro has initiated administrative proceedings seeking an order barring Oved, its officers and affiliates from bidding on any Metro construction projects for five years.

"This debarment order will not only prevent Oved from bidding on Metro work, but the company also must disclose the order in any bid on a public works project undertaken by other public entities," said CEO Roger Snoble. "The debarment procedure is intended to protect the public from untrustworthy contractors. Obviously, any contractor who engages in this type of conduct should not be working on taxpayer financed construction."

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Original Metro Rail Backer Rodney W. Rood Dies

(June 30, 2004) One of the original backers of the Metro Rail system, Arco executive Rodney W. Rood, has died at age 88.

Rood was one of two co-chairmen who directed a group of local businessmen to win political support for the Metro Rail system, the Los Angeles *Times* reported Wednesday.

In Rood's obituary, the newspaper said the lobbying effort "scored a major success in 1983 when it helped local authorities win \$117 million in federal funds to start building" the subway system.

A memorial service was scheduled at 2 p.m., today, in Pasadena. Memorial donations can be sent to the UCLA Foundation, Alzheimer's Research Fund #610680, UCLA Medical Science Development, 10945 Le Conte Place, Suite 3132, Los Angeles, CA 90095.




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## Two Metro Mechanics, Three Others Charged in Conspiracy

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(June 30, 2004) It was a complicated scheme that was difficult for the Inspector General's office to penetrate, but the investigation led to the arrest, Tuesday, of two Metro mechanics and three others for conspiracy, theft and fraud.

Scheduled for arraignment in Los Angeles Superior Court, today, are Mechanic "A" Leader Jesus Soltero, 39, assigned to South Park; and Mechanic "A" David Watkins, 26, assigned to Carson Division 18.

Also to be arraigned are Watkins' father, Randall, and his brother, Daniel, along with Billy Joe Villigan. Watkins' father and son were mechanics and Villigan a service writer at Cerritos Pontiac/GMC/Buick. The three were fired when the alleged crimes were discovered.

The five men are charged with one count each of grand theft, conspiracy and fraudulently accessing computer systems.

### Provided VIN numbers

According to Senior Investigator Brian O'Reilly of the Inspector General's Office, David Watkins provided vehicle identification numbers (VIN) of Metro-owned Chevrolet AstroVans to Villigan at the Cerritos dealership.

Villigan allegedly used the VIN numbers to create fraudulent work orders for repairs to the AstroVans, even though the vehicles were never brought into the shop. On the work orders, he indicated that the vehicles were still under General Motors warranty.

Villigan allegedly ordered new fuel pumps and assigned the repair work to Randall and Daniel Watkins. All repair work and parts were charged against the GM warranty program.

The fuel pumps – with a total value of about \$3,000 – then were given to David Watkins and Soltero who installed them in AstroVans being repaired at Metro's South Park division, the investigator said.

### Three earned commissions

The investigation found that Randall and Daniel Watkins and Villigan earned \$50 to \$60 commissions from GM for their apparent work. The scheme also ensured that David Watkins and Soltero had a ready supply of fuel pumps and could avoid using their department's budget to draw the parts from the Metro supply system.

A warranty administrator at the Cerritos dealership discovered an unusual pattern of warranty claims and contacted the dealership's security agent. The agent contacted a Metro executive who alerted the Inspector General's office. The scheme was operating for at least three months in early 2003, O'Reilly said.

O'Reilly and Deputy Inspector General Mimi Strauss credited Deputy District Attorney Juliet Schmidt with appreciating the seriousness of the alleged criminal acts and issuing a complaint that resulted in arrest warrants for the five suspects.

The arrest warrants for the five suspects were executed Tuesday morning by investigators assigned to the Los Angeles DA's Public Integrity Division.

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## National Arts Group Honors Metro Passes for Outstanding Design



By JESSICA TYERMAN

(June 30, 2004) A national graphic arts organization has recognized Metro with a prestigious award for the design of its 2004 transit passes.

Metro's daily, weekly, semi-monthly, and monthly passes received the American Institute of Graphic Arts' "Outstanding Information Design" award. Out of 4,200 entries, AIGA honored only 92.

In previous years, such organizations as the New York Times, IBM, and United Airlines have received awards in the same category.

Neil Sadler, Metro's lead designer for the project, emphasized the significance of the award. "AIGA is kind of like the Academy Awards for Graphic Design."

The national exhibition of the winning passes will travel across the country, next year, to AIGA chapters, student groups and galleries. Winning entries will be inducted into the National Design Archive online.

## A group effort

Metro's Design Studio, Customer and Vendor Services, Marketing and Communications, and Vehicle Technologies all took part in creating the passes.

Edith Goff-Youngblood of Customer and Vendor Services was among those who worked on the formatting and technicalities of the passes.

She played a specific role in coordinating the colors of subsequent daily, weekly and monthly passes to ensure operators could recognize when passengers try to use "a pass they had two months ago."

"Having the opportunity to work on this project has been extremely exciting," says Goff-Youngblood. "I feel like I played a part in the history of Metro because these passes will stay behind forever."

## More than just a pretty pass

The theme of the passes uses such elements of buses and trains as lights, wheels, seat patterns, and grills in an abstract design to create

quite "good-looking things," Sadler says. "The passes show the customer something that they're used to seeing in a very different context."

The passes' iridescent background and vibrant colors make them hard to counterfeit. Also, the larger numbers are easier for operators to see.

"The goal is to make people and customers notice them more, but there's also a strong anti-counterfeiting role," Sadler says.

The pass series will be of increasing interest to art collectors.

"I think the award will benefit Metro overall because there are already a lot of people that collect our passes," says Goff-Youngblood. "Once people know that the passes have won a design award, they may be even more interested in getting them."

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