

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [CEO Hotline](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/
Library](#)

► [Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Retirement
Round-up](#)

Metro Info

► [Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

► [Org Chart](#) (pdf)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[E-Mail Webmaster](#)

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."

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)