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El Monte Man Pleads Guilty to Attempted Grand Theft

- Sentenced to two years in prison, parole and fines.

By PAM MURANO

(June 1, 2005) An El Monte man who was arrested at Metro Headquarters on charges of attempted grand theft and insurance fraud, May 11, has pled guilty in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Eddie Dominguez, 49, alleged that he was injured while riding a Metro Bus in December 2004. Metro's Special Investigation Unit studied videotapes taken from the bus and concluded that no injury had occurred.

Investigator Roy Romero determined that the injuries Dominguez claimed he suffered on the bus were actually multiple stab wounds he sustained on Feb. 11, 2004.

Dominguez pled guilty, May 25, to attempted grand theft, a felony. In exchange for his plea, the charges for insurance fraud were dismissed.

Dominguez was ordered to serve two years in state prison and serve up to three years on parole upon his release. He was ordered to pay approximately \$500 in court fines and \$3,200 in restitution to Metro for the cost of the investigation.

Dominguez waived his right to a formal sentencing hearing and his sentence began immediately.


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'Graduation Celebration' Form Deadline June 16

- Download and print your ["2005 Graduates Form"](#) here. (PDF)

(June 1, 2005) June 16 is the deadline for employees to complete and turn in their Graduation Celebration forms to ensure a listing in this year's "Metro Honor Roll."

The annual publication, to be published June 23, honors Metro employees, their spouses, children or grandchildren who earned high school, vocational school and college diplomas in 2005.

Graduation Celebration forms have been delivered to all work locations. They also are available by mail or FAX by contacting Communications Manager Bill Heard at 922-7479.

Completed forms should be returned to Arlene Lim at mail stop 99-19-8 or faxed to 213-922-2704.


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Governance Council Meetings Scheduled for June

By RICK JAGER

(June 1, 2005) Metro's service sector governance councils have scheduled monthly public meetings in June to discuss various transportation issues within their respective service sectors.

Governance council meeting times and locations for the month of June are:

- San Fernando Valley Service Sector, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys.
- Westside/Central Service Sector, 3 p.m., Thursday, June 2, La Cienega Tennis Center, Sunset Room, 325 S. La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills.
- Gateway Service Sector, 2 p.m., Thursday, June 9, The Gas Company, 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey.
- South Bay Service Sector, 9:30 a.m., Friday, June 10, Carson Community Center, 801 E. Carson, Carson.
- San Gabriel Valley Service Sector, 5 p.m., Tuesday, June 14, San Gabriel Valley Sector Office, 3369 Santa Anita Avenue, El Monte.

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San Diego Chargers Assistant Coach Brian Stewart, son of Metro Engineer Al Stewart, directs team members during a practice session.



Employee's Football Coach Son to Host Free Camp for Kids

- One-day Pro Football Camp scheduled this Saturday

By ARLENE LIM

(June 2, 2005) More than a decade ago, Metro Engineer Al Stewart's son, Brian, began his football career at Nogales High School in La Puente.

Now, for the second year in a row, Brian – a San Diego Chargers assistant coach – will be giving back to his community by hosting a free non-contact football camp for kids.



San Diego Chargers Assistant Coach
Brian Stewart

Youngsters between the ages of 8 and 18 can attend the one-day Pro Football Camp, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Saturday, June 4, at Nogales High.

Those participating in the camp will learn about different aspects of the game from NFL pros like Drayton Florence, Kassim Osgood and Vernon Fox.

Campers will also be able to play in a 7-on-7 tourney. Area coaches are also invited to attend the camp.

Those interested in the camp should contact Tracy Atkins at 951-768-0801 or visit the chargers website at www.chargers.com and click the events link.

Although Brian won't be playing football this Saturday, Al Stewart will be in the stands cheering and supporting his son – and the future football players and coaches on the field.

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May Board Actions: Policy Changes, Security Top List of Votes

(June 2, 2005) May's Board actions included approval of motions to revise policies on drugs and alcohol in the workplace, employee positions and compensation, and additional funds for transit security.

Voting on the consent calendar, the Board approved:

Item 16, Drug and Alcohol Policy. The revised drug- and alcohol-free work environment policy includes a newly created Rail Post-Incident Test and clarifies ambiguous sections of the policy.

Item 17, Positions and Compensation. The revised job position policy allows the Board to retain overall control of Metro's salary schedule and provides for annual approval by the Board of wages and benefits.

It also provides for Board approval of all salary offers in excess of the salary range midpoint, plus 10 percent, or in excess of \$125,000 a year. The non-contract salary schedule reflects inflationary increases.

Item 19, Transit Police Services. The Board adopted a motion to modify Metro's memorandum of understanding with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which provides deputies, fare inspectors and staff for the Transit Services Bureau.

The motion calls for not-to-exceed funding of \$54.9 million for transit security services in FY 2006. It would include an additional \$4 million to expand community policing services for the Metro Orange Line "if revenues can be identified for the period of July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006."

Item 43, Rail Scheduling Program. The Board adopted a motion to award a \$352,190 contract to Giro, Inc., to upgrade Metro's HASTUS system to handle Metro Rail vehicle, crew and roster scheduling. Currently, rail schedules are develop manually.

In other action, the Board adopted:

Item 7, Air Quality Funding, which calls for programming \$26.6 million in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement funds for purchase of 75 40-foot CNG buses from North American Bus Industries. The Board optioned the purchase with NABI in July, 2004.


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Public to Get First Look at Metro Liner at Warner Center

- Articulated vehicle will be showcased at RideFest, June 9

By ED SCANNELL

(June 2, 2005) The public will get its first look at the sleek, new 60-foot articulated Metro Liner during RideFest, an annual Warner Center event that promotes transit use and other ways to beat traffic congestion.

This year's RideFest is scheduled, Thursday, June 9, at the Warner Center Transit Hub. It will be sponsored by Metro, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation and Warner Center's Transportation Management Organization, which represents the larger Warner Center employers, developers and property owners.

In addition to showcasing the Metro Liner, RideFest will include live entertainment, prize drawings, a barbeque lunch and a housing development fair.

The 14-mile Metro Orange Line, planned for an opening this fall, will operate between Warner Center and the North Hollywood Metro station. Running time from Warner Center to North Hollywood will be approximately 40 minutes.

The Metro Orange Line will provide cross-Valley commuters with an option to driving on streets and the heavily congested 101 Freeway. The line will include 13 stations and parking at six stations to accommodate a total of more than 3,200 vehicles.

PHOTO: DENIZ DURMUS



Visitors to Gateway Building had a look at the new Metro Liner articulated bus on display at Patsaouras Plaza last fall.

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The Central Warehouse team gathered, Thursday, to celebrate their safety accomplishment – two years without a lost-time injury.



PHOTOS: BILL HEARD

Central Warehouse Employees Mark 2 Injury-Free Years

(June 3, 2005) The last time any employee in the Central Warehouse and Distribution Facility was hurt seriously enough to be off work was May 23, 2003.

For a group that works two shifts a day moving materials with heavy machinery, that's a real accomplishment, says Dieter Hemsing, director of Inventory Management at the Regional Rebuild Center.

So, on Thursday, the 47 members of the Central Warehouse – joined by facilities maintenance technicians, systems analysts and other support staff – held a barbecue to celebrate their two years without a lost-time injury.

Previously, the Central Warehouse group had the worst safety record in Material Management, according to Hemsing, with up to 11 lost-time injuries a year. The job involves receiving, moving, storing and delivering an unending flow of supplies and parts ranging from boxes of nuts and bolts to pallets of heavy equipment.

"The exposure to injury here is generally higher than elsewhere," says Hemsing, noting that the group's total time on the job over the two-year period amounted to 164,500 hours. "That makes their accomplishment even more impressive."



Safety was the "icing on the cake" for the Central Warehouse group.

Helping each other stay safe

He also credits Central Warehouse Manager Jim Montoya and his crew's safety ideas and commitment to helping each other stay safe, as well as the daily stretching exercises that prepare them for the hard work ahead.

Prior to each shift, the materials supervisors – Lorraine Melendez for first shift and Dino Gutierrez for second shift – lead their teams in a three-minute routine aimed at limbering up legs and backs and loosening up arms.

"Dieter and his managers – Jim Montoya, Bill Kovach and Margaret James – have taken safety by the horns and made it a personal objective," says Ted Montoya, deputy executive officer, Procurement. "They should be commended for moving safety from an idea to actual results."

Looking ahead to another year he hopes also will be accident-free, Hemsing says, "Safety is a total team effort. Management can't do it on their own; employees have to buy into it."

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Divisions 3 and 8 Are Tops in April's 'How You Doin'?' Contest

(June 3, 2005) It was another successful month in April for two divisions that often find themselves at the top of the "How You Doin'?" monthly contest.

North Los Angeles Division 3 was named Outstanding Transportation Division, while West Valley Division 8 was named Outstanding Maintenance Division.

Division 3's transportation team performed particularly well by holding down Worker's Compensation claims, keeping to schedule by not "running hot" and in the category of passenger complaints per 100,000 boardings.

The Division 8 maintenance staff placed first in bus cleanliness and was scored high in miles between mechanical failures and in employee attendance.

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Metro Gold Line
Eastside Extension

UPDATE

Metro Gold Line Eastside
Extension

Photos by Ned Racine
The Eastside Extension of the Metro Gold Line is advancing down First Street, here, with the widening of First Street at Pecan. Adjacent to a recreation center with a pool, First Street will be wider here. Excavation photos, taken just south of First Street, at Boyle, show construction workers removing soil surrounding soldier piles.

Photos taken April 25, 2005



Excavation taking place ju



Backfill under the 101 - F



Claw at work. - First at B



Two claws are better



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PHOTO BY NED RACINE



Effort to widen
First Street gets
underway as
construction
crews pave the
way for the
Metro Gold Line
Eastside
Extension.

Metro Rail Projects Advance, Joint Developments Blossom

- Eastside tunneling machines due this summer
- Environmental report next step for Exposition Line

By RICK JAGER

(June 3, 2005) The Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension construction project winds up its first year of construction, this month, just as the long-awaited Exposition light rail project appears to be gathering steam. Meanwhile, joint development projects at Metro's transit stations also are accelerating.

Since a groundbreaking last July, work crews have been busy relocating utility lines, drilling piles and excavating along segments of the six-mile alignment. The work is focused on preparing for construction of a 1.8-mile tunnel segment that will serve underground stations at 1st and Boyle Avenue and 1st and Soto Street.

Twin boring machines manufactured in Germany will be inserted to drill the two tunnels. The machines are expected to arrive this summer.

Scheduled for completion in late 2009, the Eastside Extension is Metro's highest priority rail construction project. At a cost of \$898.8 million, with half of the funding coming from the federal government, the rail line will serve eight stations reaching from Union Station eastward through the Little Tokyo/Arts District, Boyle Heights and into East Los Angeles.

Exposition Line

The Board of Directors in April approved a \$640 million full funding plan for construction of the Exposition Light Rail Transit Project, which would operate from downtown Los Angeles to Venice/Robertson Boulevards in Culver City.

The 9.6-mile Exposition line, scheduled for a June 2010 completion, will share common track and two stations with the Metro Blue Line as it leaves downtown LA. The line will then proceed west on the Metro-owned right-of-way on Exposition Boulevard, paralleling the I-10 Freeway.

Approximately eight stations will be constructed between downtown LA and Culver City. A future second phase would extend the Exposition line to Santa Monica.

"The Expo project will have a great significance for LA's Westside and the region," said Board Chairman Frank Roberts. "In addition to providing an east-west commuting option through the heart of Los Angeles, this line will link users to the rest of the Metro Rail System and aid Los Angeles County in its ongoing efforts to meet some of the nation's most stringent air quality requirements."

The next steps will include issuance of a Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report (FEIS/FEIR), followed by the receipt of a Record of Decision (ROD) for the project from the Federal Transit Administration.

Joint Development

Developers and their partners are excited about the growth of the Metro Rail system and are investing more than \$4 billion in at least 30 new development projects around Metro stations.

"As the Metro system expands, more and more Angelenos will be able to live, work and play close to transit," said CEO Roger Snoble. "What we're witnessing today is a growing trend in development around rail that can improve mobility, recreate communities and spur economic development."

More than \$1 billion has already been invested in developments around Metro stations, particularly the Metro Red Line, where a new joint development has helped revitalize portions of downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood.

Transit-oriented developments, which contain a mix of housing, retail, office and entertainment adjacent to transit, are also a key component of the county's new development portfolio. Notable examples are the Del Mar Station and Mission Meridian Village in Pasadena, Sunset and Vine in Hollywood and CityPlace in Long Beach.

Due to the scale of growth occurring near transit, the county is seen as a national model in its efforts to build livable communities in urban areas that surround transit.


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Metro Rail Team Finishes Second at APTA International Event

- Employees invited to Raildeo Celebration on Saturday, June 25

By WILBUR BABB

(June 7, 2005) The Metro Rail Operations team finished in second place overall at the 13th annual American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Rail Rodeo.

Metro Rail Fleet Services Specialists Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo took second among the teams of competing mechanics. In the operator's competition, Metro's team of Tu Phan and Ruben Ramirez placed third.

The competition was held June 2-6 at the South Hills Village Rail Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. The APTA International Rail Rodeo is a skills competition among the nation's "best of the best" rail personnel who keep North America's rail transit systems on the move.

Top overall honors went to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) operator and maintenance team. A total of 18 of North America's finest rail transit systems, with 31 operators and 38 maintainers participated.

Top-caliber team

"This goes to show you the level of talent that exists within Metro Rail Operations," says General Manager Gerald Francis. "Finishing among the top two transit agencies in the nation says a lot about the caliber of Metro Rail personnel. I am very proud to be associated with a team that accepts any and all challenges, and they should be congratulated for their efforts."

The operators competition measured professional skills, including train operation, knowledge of safety regulations, train equipment, and track right-of-way rules and procedures. The maintenance competition judged the ability to troubleshoot maintenance problems.

"This is another demonstration of the professionalism of Metro's rail staff," says Deputy CEO John Catoe. "Considering the competition they faced from rail transit agencies around the country, this is an excellent score. I think they're Number One."

Now that the rodeo competition is over, Rail Operations will recognize the accomplishments of this year's participants during an afternoon of food, fun and entertainment at the Metro Raildeo 2005 Celebration.

The event will be held, Saturday, June 25 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., at Metro Red Line Operations, 320 S. Santa Fe Ave. All Metro employees, their families and guests are invited to attend. Admission is free.


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Metro to Implement 4 New Bus Lines, Beginning June 26

- Includes 2 Metro Rapid Lines, a freeway express bus
- Some late-night Metro Rail service to be trimmed an hour

By RICK JAGER

(June 7, 2005) Metro will implement four new bus lines, including two new Metro Rapid Bus Lines and a freeway express line, as part of service modifications set to begin on June 26.

Late-night service on the Metro Green Line, Metro Gold Line and the Wilshire/Western portion on the Metro Red Line will be trimmed by an hour effective June 26. Metro Rail changes are being made because of low ridership during late night hours and as a cost-cutting effort to balance a tight budget.

Two new Metro Rapid lines will be implemented, Monday, June 27. They will operate on Beverly Boulevard (Line 714) and along Fairfax Avenue (Line 717). Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus will begin operating a rapid bus line between Santa Monica and LAX, primarily along Lincoln Boulevard.

Metro also will start a new freeway express bus Line 450X from the Artesia Transit Center. During peak morning and afternoon periods, Monday through Friday only, it will operate along the Harbor Transitway to 7th and Metro and the Financial District.

Line 645 shuttle service

In the San Fernando Valley, Metro will begin operating new shuttle bus service, Line 645, from Warner Center via Topanga Canyon, Mulholland, Valley Circle, Vanowen, Fallbrook, and Sherman Way to West Hills Medical Center to replace the canceled segment of former Line 245.

Weekend service along this segment will no longer be provided. The service is being implemented as part of modifications being made in anticipation of the Metro Orange Line opening later this year.

Some service cancellations also are planned on a few Metro Bus lines as part of the service modifications. Midday service will be cancelled on Line 211/215 (Prairie Ave./Inglewood Ave.) and Line 202 (Willowbrook/Compton/Wilmington). Saturday and midday service will be cancelled on Line 168 (LassenStreet/Paxton Street).

In addition to the new services being implemented, numerous Metro Bus lines will undergo service modifications.

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Metro Reference Guides Mailed to 3 Communities

- Guides raised public awareness of Metro service

By ARLENE LIM

(June 7, 2005) In an effort to boost awareness and ridership, Metro recently sent out reference guides to residents of Duarte, Hermosa Beach and Pasadena.

Specifically, the mailers were sent out to zip codes 91105 in Pasadena, 91010 in Duarte and 90254 in Hermosa Beach.

The reference guides include important phone numbers for each community, like the fire department and poison control, along with information about Metro – All designed to be simple and easy to use.

"It was made into a reference guide so people would hang onto it, instead of throwing it away," said Donna Lafont senior marketing and communication officer. "We wanted them to feel like Metro was a vital part of their community."

Coupon for a travel kit

The guides also included a coupon good for a travel kit that includes a free one-week Metro pass for Metro Local, Metro Rail and Metro Rapid.

The guides are also available online, but only the direct mail piece has a coupon for a free Metro pass.

About 2 percent of those who received the mailings responded by requesting the travel kits.

"A 2 percent response is not bad, especially in a low ridership, higher income area with limited services and information about Metro," said Lafont.

More may use Metro

Research conducted after the reference guide campaign, revealed that the likelihood of using Metro increased by 10 percent. There was also a 10 percent increase in unaided awareness of Metro services and products.



Reference guides, such as the guide for Duarte, pictured above, were distributed to residents in designated areas.

Duarte, which had the lowest unaided awareness prior to the mailers, had the greatest increase in awareness after the campaign with 15 percent.

Metro will branch out in the coming months and send out reference guides to 19 other communities.

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PHOTOS: CHIP HAZEN



Randy Horton, seated left, and Kim Horton answer questions and distribute Metro information to Abilities Expo visitors. They were assisted during their shift by Kevin Dixon, standing rear.

Metro's Accessibility Advisory Committee Staffs Booth at Expo

(June 8, 2005) Metro's Accessibility Advisory Committee staffed an information booth at last weekend's Abilities Expo at the Anaheim Convention Center – an event that drew some 7,000 disabled persons from around California.

"Metro attends the event so we can answer questions from our customers with disabilities and provide current information on the accessibility of our services," said Chip Hazen, ADA compliance administrator.

"Many of the visitors did not know that all of Metro's buses are accessible and very few of the visitors with disabilities knew that our trains have level boarding platforms," he added.

Many visitors from outside of Los Angeles County wanted to know how to get around in LA when they come downtown for business or personal reasons.

Discussed Metro accessibility

Members of the Accessibility



Elinor Gibbs, first vice-chair of the AAC, and Kevin Dixon of the Oldtimers Foundation helped staff the Metro booth during the Abilities Expo at the Anaheim Convention Center.

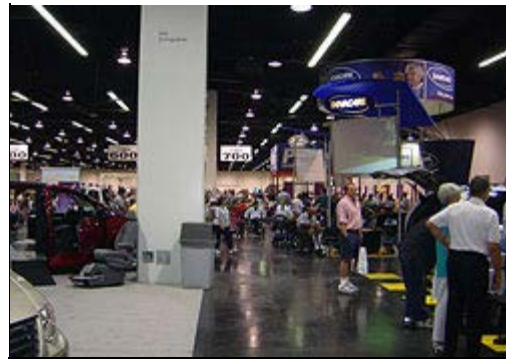
Advisory Committee (AAC) staffed the booth along with Hazen, handed out information and discussed the accessibility of Metro's bus and rail fleet during the three-day event.

Metro also shared the booth with Access Services

Incorporated, the federally required ADA Paratransit Service for LA County.

The six ACC members who staffed the booth were Kevin Dixon, representing the Oldtimers Foundation from the City of Huntington Park; Randy Horton, a patron; Kim Horton, representing LA Valley College Disabled Student Program & Services.

Also, Elinor Gibbs, Executive Director of the Clinic for Neuromuscular Disorders; Ray Louis McKeever, representing the Self Help for Hard of Hearing; and Ron Chappell, representing the San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center.



From accessible vehicles to magazines, the Abilities Expo provided information on accessible services for visitors throughout Southern California.

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BOC Controller Helps Metro Bus Operator Pop the Question

- Operators Tucker, Williams will marry in August

By ARLENE LIM



(June 8, 2005) Marriage proposal stories run the gamut: some simple, others unusual.

Transportation Operations Supervisor Jerome Humphries of Bus Operations Control landed right in the middle of an unusual connection, recently, when Metro Bus Operator Marichal Tucker proposed to his girlfriend, Operator Debbie Williams.

Originally, Tucker, who drives out of Arthur Winston Division 5, had planned to propose to Williams, of Central City Division 1, using a bench ad or a movie theater ad, but decided to propose through BOC, since they both work for Metro and met on the job.

This is the first time anyone at BOC can remember anything like this happening.

'You're not scared?'

Tucker called BOC and asked Humphries, the controller who answered, if he would propose to his girlfriend over the radio. Humphries agreed to assist with the proposal but couldn't help but ask, "You're not scared are you, Operator?"

Tucker explained that he wasn't scared, but just wanted to surprise Williams.

Humphries, faced with the task of proposing to Williams, began by asking her to pull over safely and secure her bus.

Once he was sure that she had done so, he popped the question.

"Operator 25414 wants to know if you'll marry him," Humphries asked.

'I started crying'

"I was like, 'Oh My God,' I started crying right there," recalls Williams. "I'm glad the bus was secure!"

"That's why I asked her to pull the bus over, for fear she might get a little too excited," says Humphries. "She might forget she was driving a bus."

After Williams said yes, Humphries called Tucker back with the good news and was invited to the wedding.

The pair has been dating for two years. They met at Metro when they were signing on.

Tucker and Williams will marry on August 7th in Los Angeles. It will be a small wedding with only family and friends in attendance.

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Eastside Project Making a Positive Impact on Local Schools

By RAY SOSA

PHOTOS: RAY SOSA



Engineer Lorana Quintero, foreground, and Metro Jobs Officer Jonathan Isenburg, at right, both from Eastside LRT Constructors, explain to students the alignment and the type of experience one needs to work on projects like the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension.

Below, Metro Deputy Project Manager Planning Ray Sosa, with Metro Jobs Officer Jonathan Isenburg, provides support to local schools along the alignment. Also participating in the Career Day was Adrian Alvarez, a Metro planner who is an alumni of Roosevelt High School.



(June 9, 2005) As part of the continued effort to inform the local community about the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project, Metro is making presentations at local schools along the six-mile alignment.

Eastside LRT Constructors, the contractor building the tunnel, underground and at-grade stations, and systems for the project is partnering with Metro at various events.

On Thursday, June 2, Metro and Eastside LRT Constructors participated in Theodore Roosevelt High School's Career Day. Metro planners and the contractor's engineers provided information on the project and discussed the various professions required to plan and construct such a project.

A majority of the students were very knowledgeable about the project and were excited to see station renderings and construction photos. Some of the students have family actually working on the project and participating in the Metro Jobs program.

The Metro Jobs program is being implemented by Eastside LRT Constructors in an effort to provide employment opportunities for the local community. For most students, the project is moving fast enough and they are anxious to take their first ride.

Next up on the calendar is a presentation to students of the all-girl school, Ramona Opportunity High School.

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Super Transport Jet to Deliver Metro's First 2550 Rail Car



The Russian-built Antonov AN-124 is 226 feet, 9 inches long; 68 feet, 2 inches high; and has a wingspan of 240 feet, 6 inches. The four-engine aircraft has a payload of up to 150 metric tons and can cruise at speeds between 430 and 460 knots for a range of 8,900 nautical miles. The plane's design is similar to the U.S. Air Force Lockheed C-5 Galaxy.



Metro's new 2550 car was tested at manufacturer's facility in Pistoia, Italy, before being readied for shipment to Los Angeles.

- Russian jet, one of world's largest, due Saturday at LAX

By ED SCANNELL

(June 9, 2005) In a first for Metro, a super transport jet is scheduled to deliver a new light-rail vehicle to Los Angeles, this Saturday, the lead car of 50 built in Italy by AnsaldoBreda SpA for service on the Metro Blue, Green and Gold Lines, including the Eastside Extension.

Joined by elected officials and AnsaldoBreda executives on the tarmac at LAX's Imperial Terminal, Metro officials plan to welcome the Russian-built Antonov AN-124 – one of the world's largest cargo planes – carrying the 2550 Light Rail Vehicle.

A crew will roll the new car onto a flatbed truck for delivery to the Metro Gold Line maintenance facility north of downtown LA.

Each of the 90-foot, 54-ton rail cars costs \$2.9 million. Features include seating for 76 passengers, locations for four wheelchairs and a top in-service speed of 65 mph. The cars will have a stainless steel exterior, 12 interior and eight exterior public address speakers and two passenger intercoms per car.

Electronics include a Global Positioning System for automatic station announcements, two silent alarms and three video surveillance cameras per car.

Metro Gold Line first

The first deployment of the 2550 will occur on the Metro Gold Line in late 2005 or early 2006.

The 2550 contract with AnsaldoBreda includes two 50-car options to accommodate future growth of the Metro Rail System.

Based in Naples, Italy, AnsaldoBreda S.p.A. is one of several leading manufacturers of both heavy and light-rail vehicles. The company has designed and manufactured light-rail vehicles for such major transit systems as San Francisco, Cleveland and Boston, as well as for operations in several European cities.

AnsaldoBreda also designed and manufactured heavy-rail rail vehicles for Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, as well as the 104 cars currently in use on the Metro Red Line.

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Last car out of the terminal at the end of the Pacific Electric Railway's 30-year run on June 19, 1955 ... The Pacific Electric Railway ran from a terminal beneath a building on the west side of Hill Street between 4th and 5th streets to a portal near Glendale and Beverly boulevards and Lucas Street.



Photos: Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library

50 Years Gone

Pacific Electric Subway Closed June 19, 1955

By JIM WALKER

(June 9, 2005) It was 50 years ago this month that Los Angeles' first subway shut down.

The Pacific Electric Railway ran from a terminal beneath a building on the west side of Hill Street between 4th and 5th streets to a portal near Glendale and Beverly boulevards and Lucas Street.

The tunnel, including the terminal, was just over 5,000 feet long. Construction commenced on the \$3.5 million projected in May, 1924 and the subway opened November 30, 1925.



Glendale Mayor Lawson and residents pack trolley for last trek down Brand Blvd. on June

From the PE terminal, "Red Cars" made runs to Hollywood, Beverly Hills, the San Fernando Valley and the cities of Glendale and Burbank. As years passed most rail services were converted to buses, which ran on surface streets.

By 1953, when the Pacific Electric Railway turned over its passenger service to a new entity, Metropolitan Coach Lines, only two routes remained – rail lines to Beverly Hills via Hollywood, and the Glendale-Burbank line.

When the subway's last rail line, the one to Glendale and Burbank, was converted to buses on June 19, 1955, the subway became only a memory.

The tunnel has since been plugged by a building foundation on Olive Street and, more recently, was the center of controversy when a developer planned to build residences at a former rail yard near its portal.

Today's Metro Red Line passes within a few feet of the old Red Car terminal at a 90-degree angle.

19, 1955.



Line 5005 rounds Glenoaks Blvd. at the Orange Grove terminal in Burbank June 4, 1955.



Line 5001 sails down Brand Blvd. at Mountain Ave. on a smogless day in Glendale, June 4, 1955.



Lines 5014 and 5025 pass on the tracks along Glenoaks Blvd. at Sonoroa Ave., June 4, 1955.

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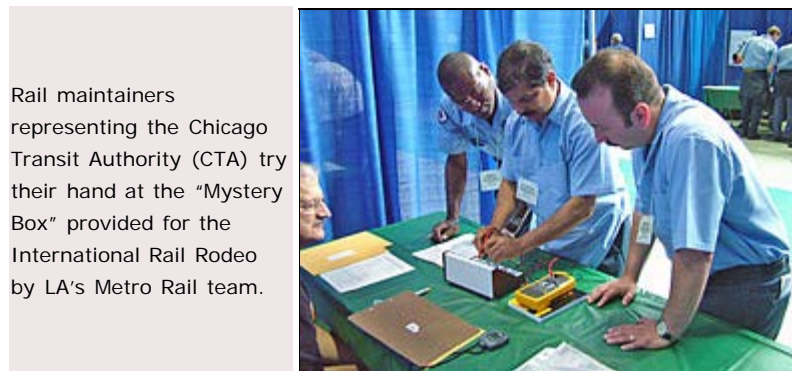
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PHOTOS: RUSSELL HOLMAN



Metro's team of Rail Fleet Services specialists, from left, Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo put their heads together over the written test.



Rail maintainers representing the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) try their hand at the "Mystery Box" provided for the International Rail Rodeo by LA's Metro Rail team.

Metro Provides 'Mystery Box' for APTA International Rail Rodeo

By RUSSELL HOMAN

(June 10, 2005) This year's APTA International Rail Rodeo – held last Saturday in Pittsburgh – featured a new event created by Metro's Rail Fleet Services Instruction Department.

Developed specifically to test the diagnostic skills of rail car maintainers, the "Mystery Box" event featured 47 test points for 20 different electronic components.

Using a multi-meter, contestants had to discover which of the 47 test points could be connected to the 20 components in the metal box.

Inside the box were resistors, diodes, LEDs, capacitors, transistors, a bridge, and an opto-Isolator chip. Each contestant was given a maximum of 15 minutes to complete the Mystery Box event.

Of 14 transit agencies competing, New York City Transit and Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) scored the highest on the Mystery Box, with tying scores of 70 points each.

Because Metro provided the Mystery Box, the Los Angeles team did not compete in the event.

In addition to the Mystery Box, this year's International Rail Rodeo featured nine events to test the maintainers' troubleshooting skills. They included a written test, air conditioning, defective component, circuit building, torque wrench, wheel gauge, mechanical measuring, and tools and fasteners.

Metro's team of Rail Fleet Services specialists Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo placed second behind the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA).

In the operator's competition, Metro's team of Tu Phan and Ruben Ramirez placed third. Together, the Metro Rail team placed second, overall, in the International Rail Rodeo.

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During loading of the Antonov AN-124, Metro's new light-rail vehicle is covered with a protective tarp, but the Metro logo is just visible in the lighted cargo bay.



Ready to Fly:

Metro's 2550 Rail Car Boards Russian Aircraft

(June 10, 2005) In a late-night operation, Thursday, AnsaldoBreda officials supervised the loading of Metro's first 2550 rail car onto a Russian-built cargo plane at an airport in Pisa, Italy.

After loading, the aircraft, flown by a British crew, took off for Reykjavik, Iceland – the first leg of a 6,300-mile flight to California. It will depart Reykjavik late Friday for LAX.

On Saturday, Metro officials, local officials and AnsaldoBreda executives will welcome the 90-foot, 54-ton rail car to Los Angeles.



Illustration shows the flat-bed truck that will transport Metro's 2550 rail car to the Metro Gold Line yard. The rig has all-wheel steering in order to more easily maneuver through streets to the rail yard.

At LAX, a crew will roll the new car onto a flatbed truck for delivery, June 14, to the Metro Gold Line maintenance facility north of downtown LA. The first deployment of the 2550 will occur on the Metro Gold Line

in late 2005 or early 2006.

Due to security concerns at LAX, Metro staff and the public will not have access to the staging area. MyMetro.net will provide photos and a story, next week, about the landing and unloading.

The 2550 contract with AnsaldoBreda includes two 50-car options to accommodate future growth of the Metro Rail System. The remainder of the light-rail cars will be shipped by sea.

AnsaldoBreda is delivering Metro's first 2550 car only 24 months after the construction contract was awarded. Constructing such vehicles normally takes 30 to 36 months.

-- Larry Kelsey contributed to this story.

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Freeway Service Patrol Expansion Among June Board Motions

(June 10, 2005) Expansion of the Metro Freeway Service Patrol, ATMS equipment for contractor-operated buses, surveillance cameras and robotic carts are among the items on agendas for June's Board committee meetings.

Item 29. Freeway Service Patrol.

The Metro Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) would expand selected weekday and weekend service in existing patrol areas, under a plan the staff is recommending to the Operations Committee.

The committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to amend the contracts of the 20 FSP towing companies by a total of \$3.5 million. Under the proposed plan, the FSP would provide service from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekends. The number of tow trucks would increase from 33 to 44 on weekday mid-days and from 28 to 42 on weekends.

Item 28. ATMS Equipment. Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) equipment would be installed on 100 contractor-operated Metro buses and in two road supervisor vehicles under a plan the staff is recommending to the Operations Committee.

The committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to award a \$2 million contract to Motorola, Inc., for purchase and installation of the ATMS equipment. Contractors currently operate 168 Metro buses on local and shuttle routes. Installing the system will enhance the Bus Operations Center's ability to address emergency situations quickly, as well as allowing Metro's Contract Services field representatives to better monitor and manage contractor-operated buses.

Item 37. Surveillance Cameras. Surveillance cameras installed on 130 Neoplan buses in the late 1990s are now obsolete and should be replaced, the Metro staff is recommending to the Operations Committee.

June Meetings

- Wednesday, June 15

Planning and Programming,
1 p.m.

- Thursday, June 16

Executive Management and Audit,
9 a.m.

Finance and Budget
10:30 a.m.

Operations,
1 p.m.

Construction (cancelled)

- Thursday, June 23

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting,
9:30 a.m.

The committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to award a \$667,162 contract to GE Infrastructure Security to remove the obsolete cameras and install new ones on the Carson Division 18 buses. Unlike the old cameras, the new cameras can be integrated into the Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) for storing and transmitting images to a central monitoring system.

Item 32. RRC Robots. The 11 robotic carts, called Automated Guideway Vehicles (AGV), that deliver parts and material to various locations within the Regional Rebuild Center have outlived their service life and must be replaced, the Metro staff is recommending to the Operations Committee. The performance of the AGV system, installed in 1986, has become unreliable and frequently breaks down.

The committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to award a \$1.7 million to HK Systems, Inc., of Salt Lake City, for 11 new AGVs and an upgrade of the computer control system to radio frequency technology that would replace the outdated and problematic wire guidance system that directs the driverless carts around the RRC and Central Warehouse.

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Metro Liner Featured on KTLA's Morning News

PHOTOS: JUAN OCAMPO

The new Metro Liner vehicle took center stage, Thursday, at Paramount Studios as reporter Gayle Anderson of KTLA's Morning News promoted the new movie, "The Honeymooners." Based on the 1950s television series, Paramount's feature-length film was released today nationwide. (6/10/05)



KTLA Reporter Gayle Anderson interviews San Fernando Valley General Manager Richard Hunt about the Metro Liner, which will debut later this year on the Metro Orange Line.



Reporter gets on board and, below, behind the wheel, with TOS Steve Rank.



Winners of an on-line contest got the chance to step into a wind-filled booth to grab for cash and rode the Metro Liner into the studio's New York set.

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A 450 Express bus, with its new color scheme, is ready to begin runs from the Artesia Transit Center into downtown Los Angeles



South Bay to Downtown: New 450 Express Bus Service Coming

- Artesia Transit Center to Downtown in less than 30 minutes

By Dave Sotero

(June 14, 2005) Beginning Monday, June 27, Metro will pilot a new express bus line that will speed rush hour commuters between the South Bay and Downtown Los Angeles in less than 30 minutes, about half the time of driving alone.

Metro Express Line 450X will travel between the Artesia Transit Center and LA's Financial District, with Downtown stops at 7th and Metro, 5th and Flower and several other points.

Riders will be able to try out the new service for free Monday, June 27, through Wednesday, June 29.

An Open House is scheduled at the Artesia Transit Center on Wednesday, June 29, to distribute information about South Bay transportation services and to offer free rides on the 450 Express. Information tables will be set up on the bus loading platform from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The newly outfitted blue 450 Express buses will make the brisk 25-30 minute trip by using HOV lanes and will make only one mid-point stop – at Harbor Freeway and I-105.

Buses every half-hour

Two 450 Express buses will complete four round trips during the morning and afternoon rush hours. Buses will run every half hour

between 6:25 a.m. and 7:55 a.m., and from 4:05 p.m. to 5:25 p.m.

"The South Bay community will be well served by this new and improved express service, which can save them valuable time and reduce gasoline and parking costs," said South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey. "The Artesia Transit Center is fully equipped to handle commuters' needs, with 900 free park and ride spaces and connections with 10 Metro and two municipal transit lines serving much of the South Bay."

The fare for all 450X Express Bus boarding points will be \$2.25 – the \$1.25 regular fare, plus \$1 for two freeway zones. The fare for seniors/disabled/Medicare recipients will be 95 cents.

The express buses will run on a trial basis for the next six months. The South Bay sector will hold public hearings in early August to determine whether the line will become a permanent express route.

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Giant Cargo Jet Delivers Metro's First 2550 Railcar

- Light-rail car emerges in five-hour offloading operation at LAX

Photos by Juan Ocampo



(June 14, 2005) With Metro's new 2550 Light-Rail Vehicle on board, an Antonov AN-124 cargo jet touched down just before 9 a.m., last Saturday, at LAX.



Taxiing to the Imperial Terminal, the nose cone of the giant plane opened and a ramp folded out to begin a five-hour unloading operation.



On hand to greet the rail car at LAX were CEO Roger Snoble and Giancarlo Fantappiè, chairman and CEO of Breda Transportation, Inc., a subsidiary of AnsaldoBreda SpA, the railcar manufacturer.



Crews built a miniature railway to roll the 54-ton railcar out off the plane's interior and onto a flat-bed trailer truck.



The 2550 vehicle was scheduled to be transported, Tuesday, to the Metro Gold Line yard just north of downtown LA for further testing prior to being put into revenue service. Metro's contract with AnsaldoBreda includes two 50-car options to accommodate future growth of the Metro Rail System. The remainder of the 2550 cars will be shipped by sea.

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Proud Garfield High TCAP students pose for a photo aboard the restored streetcar with Metro's Steve Brye, upper left, and Don Ott, lower left, along with members of the Los Angeles Fire Department, front row, who volunteered to move the vehicle to Travel Town in Griffith Park.



Photos by Chris Lovdahl

TCAP Students Complete Restoration of Vintage Streetcar

By PERRY WILLIAMS

(June 14, 2005) High energy and excitement filled Garfield High School, June 9, as onlookers admired the restoration of a vintage streetcar used in Los Angeles more than 100 years ago.

A half-decade of work came to an end as students, teachers, media and community members came to view the streetcar before it was transported by the Los Angeles Fire Department to Travel Town Museum in Griffith Park.

"All the credit for restoring the old streetcar goes to the students," said Robert Hernandez, Woodwork and Carpentry teacher at Garfield High School.

His students participate in the Transportation Careers Academy Program, coordinated by Metro's Organizational Development &



LAFD firefighters tie down the restored streetcar in preparation for the move to Travel Town in Griffith Park. Below, the restored streetcar is en route to Griffith Park aboard an LAFD flat-bed trailer.

Training Department. Students in various grades came together and refurbished the streetcar, which was first used in Los Angeles more than 100 years ago.

Ran until 1945

The streetcar dates back to the 1890's and ran until 1945. The vehicle was used to service the overflow of spectators of events at what was known as the Gilmore Baseball Field.



The car had become dilapidated due to being displayed outdoors at the Travel Town Museum.

"Looking at pictures of the car before getting it we knew it was completely messed up, but when we actually got it – whoa!" said student Alejandro Valdez. The streetcar was moldy, in rotten condition, beams were unstable and the car lacked essential safety devices.

Students kept the original frame when restoring the vehicle. Thanks to donations and funding provided by Unite LA, all necessary parts were received and applied. Using materials such as birch, ash, plywood and oak, the students worked meticulously to ensure complete restoration of the car.

Under the guidance and supervision of Hernandez, they removed the rotten woodwork and restored the floor frame, seats, side posts and roof. Proper shades of brown and green paint were also used to restore the streetcar's original appearance.

The 1890s streetcar in pristine condition after restoration by the TCAP students at Garfield High School.



Unforeseen challenges

"We've had this trolley for around five to six years now because of many unforeseen circumstances" said Instructor Robert Hernandez.

All agreed the most difficult part of the streetcar was recreating the roof. With only half of an old streetcar rib, Metro's Sharad Mulchand of Countywide Planning and Development volunteered to assist the students by making the ribs for the roof. This required research to find the right kind of wood, creating special jigs to hold the wood in place.

"When I saw what the students were doing," said Mulchand, "I knew I had to volunteer and get involved, regardless of how long it was going to take."

Restoring the streetcar was no easy task. Students faced such obstacles as the weather, graduation, minor accidents and unexpected vandalism.

"We returned one morning and there was writing all over the streetcar and it was like starting all over from day one," said Hernandez.

Students were determined to complete the restoration project and felt that the situations were minor in comparison to the final goal. Willing to stay after school, work on weekends and even during school breaks, the students refused to relax until the project was finished.

They understood that turning negatives into positives was the best thing to keep up morale.

Important lessons

The project gave students a good opportunity to build relations with one another as well as with their teacher. Aside from the hands-on experience the students gained, some of the most important lessons emerged due to constant interaction with one another.

"We didn't really know each other, but after working on this we've become good friends," said former student Mario Samano.

Tenth-grader Crystal Leon expressed with pride her role in restoring the streetcar. "I was the only girl, but helping with the car felt good. My balance wasn't the greatest, but I showed that a girl can use her hands to get a job done."

All the hard work came to an end when the finished product was prepared, June 9, to return to Travel Town.

'Ecstatic' for the students

"I'm ecstatic to see the students so happy for the opportunity, excited for Travel Town, and even glad that I was able to be a volunteer for some years on this streetcar," said Project Manager Steve Brye of Metro's Central Area Team.

The car was loaded onto a trailer truck and delivered to Travel Town Museum by the Los Angeles Fire Department. Eight fire fighters, under the supervision of Captain Rich Cotterall, came out to assist in returning the streetcar.

"We love doing community service and this is not only fun for us but it serves a worthwhile cause," said Cotterall.

Students were proud to see the display representing a historic tribute to Los Angeles' transit history. Visiting a museum is good, but having accomplished work in the museum is even better.

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Metro's Team Places 2nd at APTA Rail Rodeo



Metro Rail's maintenance team of Eric Czintos, Ronnie Burt and Rafaele Mastrangelo, shown here with Instructor Russell Homan (at left), finished only 12 points out of first place. Below, Operators Ruben Ramirez and Tu Phan, pictured with Instructor Esther Pippins (center), took third place at the International Rail Rodeo. Photos: Bill Heard



- Have to be 'fast on your feet' and watch 'every little detail'

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(June 15, 2005) "Each year, the events are getting harder," said Rail Maintenance Specialist Ronnie Burt, thinking back to the APTA International Rail Rodeo, held June 4, in Pittsburgh.

Burt and his teammates, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo took second place in the maintenance competition. Only 12 points separated them from that event's winners, the Maryland Transit Authority team.

Czintos estimated that the maintenance event is 50 percent knowledge and 50 percent quick thinking. "If you're fast on your feet thinking, you're bound to do well."

Rail Operator Tu Phan, attending his sixth international event, and his partner, first-timer Ruben Ramirez, finished third behind the Santa Clara Transportation Authority and Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) teams.

SEPTA won the overall International Rail Rodeo competition, with Los Angeles Metro placing second.

Tu Phan found the most difficult part of this year's event was getting used to different equipment and a strange system. "There's always something new, different and challenging. None of the Rodeos are the same."

Tu Phan scored 100 percent on the customer service portion of the contest, but the operators' team lost 50 points when they reported a mechanical problem 15 seconds too soon.

"They put a lot of challenges on the course and you have to keep in mind every little detail," he said. "That was one of the little details."

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June 27 >

Metro Rapid Program Marks Halfway Point



- Three new Rapid lines to debut ; Santa Monica's Rapid 3 is a first for the program

By ED SCANNELL

(June 16, 2005) Five years after it opened its first two lines, Metro will mark the half-way point of the planned 28-line Metro Rapid program with the debut, June 27, of three new lines.

The start of service on Fairfax Metro Rapid Line 717, Beverly Metro Rapid Line 714 and Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus Rapid 3 line on Lincoln Boulevard will bring the total number of Rapid lines to 14 and expand Rapid service to 205 route miles.

"From the moment the red Metro Rapid buses began rolling down Wilshire, Whittier and Ventura Boulevards in 2000, Los Angeles had a hit on its hands," said Board Chairman Frank Roberts. "Metro Rapid delivered on the promise to significantly reduce bus commute times and the public responded by flocking to this great new service."

New Rapid Blue

Santa Monica's new Rapid Blue bus service marks the first time a Rapid line has been operated by a municipal operator. The newly designed buses will travel from Wilshire and 4th Street in Santa Monica along a densely populated 10-mile stretch of Lincoln Boulevard to the Metro Green Line's Aviation station near LAX.

Rapid 3 will serve Santa Monica, Venice, Playa Vista, Marina del Rey and Westchester. It will provide service every 15 minutes, Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Rapid 3 also will connect with Wilshire/Whittier Metro Rapid Line 720 and will serve the LAX Transit Center, Westchester Recreation Center, and the Third Street Promenade.

Rapid Blue buses feature a new color scheme of dark metallic blue with yellow lettering to differentiate them from regular Big Blue Bus service.

The buses have luggage racks, reading lights, low floors for faster boarding, and transit signal priority technology. Bus stations with the Rapid Blue color scheme will be placed along the Rapid 3 route.

Metro programmed \$736,000 for the installation of the transit signal priority system on the Lincoln Boulevard portion of Rapid 3 and \$1,278,160 for construction of the line's station stops on Lincoln Boulevard.

Metro Rapid Line 717

The 6.7-mile Fairfax Metro Rapid Line 717 will operate Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Los Angeles and West Hollywood.

It will serve such landmarks as the Farmer's Market, The Grove, Museum Row, and the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The line will operate every 10 minutes during peak periods and every 18 minutes during off-peak hours.

Metro Rapid Line 714

Beverly Metro Rapid Line 714 will operate every 15 minutes Monday through Friday during peak hours only, 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The 11.6-mile line will provide connections to the Metro Blue and Red Lines and to several Metro Rapid and local service bus lines.

Line 714 will serve Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Beverly Hills, and landmarks including the Beverly Center and the Beverly Hills Civic Center area.

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Service Attendant Kenneth Trammel, Utility A Leader Arthur Winston, Mechanic Steve Clay and Mechanic Renee Navarre Mclin, enjoy the Juneteenth Celebration barbeque.



PHOTOS: ARLENE LIM

Metro's Juneteenth Event Celebrates 'Unity In the Community'

By PERRY WILLIAMS

(June 21, 2005) Metro employees gathered, June 16, for the third Annual Juneteenth Celebration and Barbecue. The program was sponsored by the African American Employee's Association (AAEA) and held at the Arthur Winston Division.

Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865 is considered to be the date marking the ending of slavery in America. Rumors were spread regarding freedom, but the announcement was not formally heard until Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Tex., to read General Order No. 3.

The theme for this year's Juneteenth celebration was entitled "Unity in the Community." Organizers decided it would be a formal expression to celebrate the diversity of Metro's employees and customers.

After months of planning, Arthur Winston Division 5 was chosen because of the history behind the name. Frank Willis, Diversity and Economic Opportunity representative, said, "It is only fitting that we have this event here, because it is a historical event tied to a historical division."



The Metro Choir entertained the crowd with four music selections.

' A glorious occasion '

The program opened with a prayer by Transit Security Sgt. John Davis. He began by saying, "It's a glorious occasion and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Bus Operator Mary Johnson sang the National Negro Anthem and said she felt really good about the program being held to promote awareness among all people. "I'm honored because this is a beautiful holiday and I don't think many people are aware of its historical significance."

The program included traditional drumming accompanied by other instruments played by Senior Contract Administrator DonCosta Seawell and friends.

The Metro Choir entertained with four selections that encouraged crowd participation and celebration.

"We want to make sure everyone is having a good time and enjoying the music," said Digital Technician Keith Hanson.



Employees attending the Juneteenth Celebration enjoy the entertainment.

Plans monthly events

A key factor to making this event a success was the communication between different divisions. The AAEEA plans to host monthly events to inspire in employees an appreciation for all cultures.

"Ten years ago we had regular events and guests such as Congresswoman Maxine Waters who came out to attend this program," said George Parks of the County Counsel's office. "We're building it up to make sure we reach out to all the community through

Metro's Juneteenth celebration was an overall success and enjoyed by many in attendance.

"This is the best we've had yet," said South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey. "Programs like this one really show that Metro has many talented individuals."



South Bay Sector General Manager Dana Coffey and others wait in line to get their plate of Texas-style barbeque.


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'Metro Honor Roll' Will Salute the Graduating Class of 2005

- Annual publication to list 200-plus employee, family graduates

By ARLENE LIM

(June 21, 2005) Metro will have one last graduation *hoorah*, this Thursday, with publication of the 2005 edition of "Metro Honor Roll."

"Metro Honor Roll," which honors graduates of high schools, vocational schools and colleges, this year boasts in excess of 200 employee and family graduates.

About 115 of those graduated from high school, 89 from college, 14 with a Master's Degree, 61 with a Bachelors Degree and 14 with an Associate's Degree or Certificate. Of the graduates, 22 are Metro employees.

Some households had more than one shining star this year. At last count, there were at least 13 pairs of graduates that each came from a single household. Many were siblings who graduated from the same high school, while other households had high school and college graduates.

A pair of shining stars

One such example is Assistant Administrative Analyst Claudia Casasola, who graduated from the University of Phoenix with a BS in Business Administration. Her son, Genaro Casasola, shared in the celebration by graduating from Northview High School.

Bus Operator Quintin Mora Haro's daughter, Stephanie Mora, and stepdaughter, Melissa Gomez, both graduated from Schur High School.

Metro employees and their families don't simply graduate, they often graduate with honors – Summa Cum Laude, Principal's Honor Roll, Deans List or Salutatorian.

Bus Operator and super star Michael Kalustian, finished his MA in Communications Studies at CSU Los Angeles as Magna Cum Laude.

Summa Cum Laude

Senior Administrative Analyst Susan Carisasa-Ginsberg's star is definitely shining bright. She graduated from Colorado Technical University as Summa Cum Laude.

This year's "Metro Honor Roll" will look different from past issues, as it will no longer be organized by department but by the graduate's last name, both to better utilize space and to make it easier to find graduates on the list.

"Metro Honor Roll" will be published, June 23, on the Intranet. The

print version will be distributed to operating divisions and at the Gateway Building.

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Metro, Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus Debut 3 New Rapid Lines

- 'Rapid Blue' is first of its kind for a local municipal operator

By ED SCANNELL

(June 21, 2005) Officials from Metro, Big Blue Bus and the City of Santa Monica speaking at a joint news conference, Monday, announced the inauguration of two new Metro Rapid lines – and the debut of "Rapid Blue," the first Rapid line to be operated by a municipal bus operator in LA County.

The three new bus lines will go into service on Monday, June 27. The 6.7-mile Fairfax Metro Rapid Line 717 will serve Los Angeles and West Hollywood. The 11.6-mile Beverly Metro Rapid Line 714 will provide service in Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Beverly Hills.

Santa Monica's "Rapid Blue," designated Rapid 3, will serve a 10-mile stretch of Lincoln Boulevard. The buses – dark metallic blue with yellow and gold lettering – also will connect with Metro Rapid Line 720 and will provide service to Venice, Playa Vista, Marina del Rey and Westchester.

The Rapid 3 schedule has been designed for maximum integration with the Metro Green Line schedule and expects to connect more than 800 passengers each day with the



Announcing the start of three new Rapid lines were, from left, Herb Katz, Santa Monica Mayor Pro-Tem; Stephanie Negriff, director of Transit Services, Big Blue Bus; and CEO Roger Snoble.

Aviation station.

“Rapid Blue” buses are equipped with luggage racks, reading lights, low floors and signal priority technology. They will operate on cleaner-burning liquid natural gas.

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Public Open House at Artesia Transit Center, June 29

(June 22, 2005) Members of the South Bay community will learn about the public transit options in their area during an Open House at the Artesia Transit Center, Wednesday, June 29.

Sponsored by the South Bay Service Sector, the Open House will be held from 6:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the facility, located just off the I-110 Harbor Transitway on West 182nd Street.

Open House attendees will be among the first in the South Bay to ride new Metro Express Line 450X, which should whisk commuters into downtown LA in 25-30 minutes with only one stop at the Harbor Transitway/I-105 station. Metro will provide free rides on the new Metro Express starting Monday, June 27 through Wednesday, June 29.

Ten Metro and two local bus lines serve the Artesia Transit Center, which has 900 free park & ride spaces for commuters. Metro will set up several information tables on the bus loading platform and will distribute information on South Bay Services, including bus and rail timetable information.



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4 Life Terms for Man Convicted in Union Station Sexual Assaults

(June 22, 2005) A Carson man accused of two sexual assaults and an attempted assault on women at Union Station in 2004 was sentenced, June 17, to four life terms in prison.

Stephen Jackson was convicted on 11 felony counts that included rape, sodomy and attempted rape involving two victims at the Central Library and three at Union Station. The women, who were assaulted between March and September, 2004, ranged in age from 17 to 25.

Jackson, 34, will be eligible for parole for in 81 years. He was convicted of the crimes, May 24, in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Jackson was arrested outside Metro Headquarters, Sept. 2, 2004, when one of the victims pointed him out to Sheriff's deputies. In addition to identification by all the victims, Jackson was linked to one case by a DNA match.

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PHOTOS: DENIZ DURMUS



Volunteer staff with goodie bags full of Metro promotional items and "Take Ones" to hand out work advance team for the popular Metro Rapid bus 'float' entry in the Christopher Street West parade June 12. Accounting Supervisor Bill Hesser, center, walked the mile-long route but got the biggest workout just waving back to cheering spectators. "There was an enthusiastic response from the crowds," he said, putting it mildly.

Metro 'Big Hit' in annual West Hollywood Parade

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(June 22, 2005) The annual Christopher Street West Parade goes right by West Hollywood Division 7, but Metro didn't let the parade pass it by.

A sleek new 45-foot Metro Rapid bus attended by logo-waving staff carrying Metro goodie bags was a star attraction that was greeted wildly by cheering onlookers as it cruised down Santa Monica Boulevard on parade day, June 12.

Located along the parade route and a vital neighbor in good standing with the community it serves, West Hollywood Division has been involved in the parade since the Christopher Street West Festival began some 35 years ago.



Spectators found themselves reflected in king ad that included a mirror.

Metro went all out for the annual Christopher Street West Parade in West Hollywood this year, decking out the Metro Rapid bus with a special West Hollywood king ad, tail ad and banner prepared for the parade by Metro's Design Studio.

The king ad, which read "Find Yourself in West Hollywood," included a mirror that reflected the audience. The king ad was a definite crowd pleaser, said Creative Director Michael Lejeune, who credited Communications DEO Warren Morse with the innovative concept.

In addition to community outreach, Metro's participation in the parade was consistent with policies supporting diversity, said Don Ott, executive officer, administration.

From entry forms to the grand appearance, employee volunteers worked behind the scenes and on parade day to accomplish one of Metro's most rewarding community outreach programs.

"It was a great reception from the crowd," said Ott. "People cheered, applauded and waved as the bus passed. We had fun participating and the reception the crowd gave us made us proud to be a part of Metro."

"It also gave Metro positive exposure to hundreds of thousands of people who came from all over the county to see the parade," he said.

While Bus Operator Barbara Johnston was at the helm of the 45-footer, TOS John Escher and Assistant Transportation Manager Derick Mahome were leading the operation behind the scenes to keep the service running during the street closures.


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Final Commencement: Graduation Ends 25 Years of Tuition for Metro Family

By PERRY WILLIAMS

(June 23, 2005) As "Pomp and Circumstance" played at the University of LaVerne, Metro Bus Operator Bacilio Cortez and his wife, Olga, stood proud for more than their youngest daughter's commencement.

The graduation marked the end of more than 25 years of tuition payments for their four children.

After the ceremony, the two breathed a sigh of relief they'd been holding in for a very long time.

"I thought about buying my wife and me a robe, too!" said Cortez, who is assigned to San Gabriel Valley Division 9. "I'm proud for them and me."

Starting from the oldest child's first day at grammar school to the youngest receiving her B.S. in Accounting, the Cortezes can finally rest after sacrificing for more than a quarter of a century.

The children were not eligible to receive financial aid, leaving Cortez to work many hours to put them through school. "It was definitely a struggle, but I look at it like the money was going somewhere, so it might as well be for their education."

'Depended on Daddy'

Cortez even faced the challenge of having three in college at the same time. "I never called in sick because my children depended on Daddy to come through."

Asked his secret to all four of his children graduating from college, Cortez simply replied, "We started talking to them about college before they were even able to spell *school*."

Olga and Bacilio Cortez are very proud of their children. Carlos Cortez earned a B.A. in Political Science and most recently received a Master's in Public Administration. His brother, Eduardo Cortez, holds a B.S. in Optical Engineering.

Daughter Patricia Cortez-Garcia has a B.A. in Political Science, while the newest graduate, Maria Cortez, earned a B.S. in Accounting.

"I feel more relieved now that I don't have the pressure," said Bacilio Cortez. "Most people accomplish something and go to Disneyland, I'm going to relax with my wife."


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Gary Clark, Metro Government Relations DEO, Died Wednesday

- Memorial service scheduled, 10 a.m., June 29, in Long Beach
- Clark was 'well-respected in Washington and Sacramento'



Gary Clark
1957 - 2005

(June 23, 2005) The Board of Directors adjourned its June meeting, Thursday, in memory of Gary Clark, deputy executive officer for Government Relations and Board Research Services, who died Wednesday at his home in Long Beach.

A memorial service is scheduled at 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 29, at Grace United Methodist Church, 2325 E. 3rd St., Long Beach (562-433-7401).

Clark, 47, joined SCRTD in April, 1988, beginning his career as a legislative analyst. He later was named Legislative Affairs manager, assistant director of Legislative Affairs, director of Board Research Services and, in 2002, deputy executive officer.

Prior to joining Metro, Clark worked in Access Services with the Orange County Transportation District (OCTD), beginning in 1986.

CEO Roger Snoble had known Clark from the time he was SCRTD's representative on the Executive Committee of the California Transit Association.

'A great loss to us'

"I was very impressed with Gary and we had a good relationship and a nice friendship," he said. "I could always count on him and we were able to accomplish a lot. He was well-respected in Washington and Sacramento. He's a great loss to us."

Over the past several years, Clark reported to Chief of Staff Maria Guerra.

"Gary cared a lot about the agency and about the fact that Metro was really important to the citizens of LA County," she said. "He has left a legacy behind for the residents of this county."

Deputy CEO John Catoe's friendship with Clark dates back 19 years from the time they worked together at OCTD. Clark's late father, Charles, then pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Costa Mesa, officiated at Catoe's wedding.

"When Gary worked in Access Services he would always defend the passengers' rights. He was very strong in his opinions," Catoe said. "In our lives, we often have people who cross our paths. He crossed mine and he had an impact. I'm going to miss him."

UCLA graduate

A second-generation Southern Californian, Clark moved to Los Angeles County from San Diego in 1963 and lived in Long Beach for the past 14 years. He earned a BA from UCLA in 1980.

During his career, he served on the Legislative Committee of the American Public Transportation Association. He served on the Executive Committee of the California Transit Association and chaired CTA's Legislative Committee for three years.

In his spare time, Clark was very active at Long Beach Grace United Methodist Church, where he served as director of music for 13 years. He also served on the church's Board of Trustees, Worship Committee and as a lay delegate to the California Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Clark is survived by his partner, Peter Cobo; his mother, Bernice R. Clark of Tustin; sisters Diane Kildun of Ventura and Kathleen Larson of Tustin; niece Meghan and nephew Clark Kildun of Ventura; and niece Kimberly and nephew Eric Larson of Tustin.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Clark's memory to the Malcolm C. Todd Cancer Institute, 2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 (562-933-0910) or to the Community Center of Long Beach, 2017 E. 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814 (562-434-4455).

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METRO HONOR ROLL - Class of 2005

- Compiled by Arlene Lim with assistance from Perry Williams.

Congratulations, Class of 2005!

As you celebrate your achievement and the promise of years to come, you can be proud of the challenges you have met in reaching graduation. Supported by your families, you have devoted years of study, discipline and skill to reach your goal. Now, many possibilities are open to you and you can make a more valuable contribution to your family, your profession and your community.

-- Roger Snoble, CEO

Click on links below to find a graduate's name.

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A

Vanessa Jay Acuña, daughter of Electronic Comm Tech Ldr Diana Valdez, graduated from Littlerock High School.

Jessica Marisa Adams, daughter of Sr. Account Executive Norma Elston-Adams, graduated from Bishop Montgomery High School.

Jimmy S. Aguilar, son of General Svcs Supv Jose Aguilar, graduated from William S. Hart High School.

Jason Akinfolarin, son of General Clerk Lisa B. Akinfolarin, graduated from San Dimas High School, City of San Dimas Scholarship.

Desiree Ancheta, daughter of Traction Pwr Inspector Oscar Ancheta, graduated from Concorde Career Institute with a certificate as a Licensed Vocational Nurse.

Asia M. Anderson, daughter of TOS Anita Mitchell-Anderson, graduated from Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies.

Gayle Anderson, Sr. Comm. Officer, graduated from UCLA Extension with a certificate in Sequential Program in Web Technology.

Theodore John V. Apostol, son of Bus Operator Teodoro L. Apostol, graduated from UC Berkeley with a Masters in Public Policy.

Carlos Arencibia, son of Bus Operator Barbara Arencibia, graduated from Gladstone High School.

Camille Arnold, daughter of Worker's Comp Analyst Karla S. Arnold, graduated from Eisenhower High School, Honor Roll.

Angelo Atienza, son of Sr. Auditor Wilfredo Atienza, graduated from

Don Bosco Technical Institute, Principal's List, Deans List.

Jennifer Au, daughter of Fare Collections Tech William Au, graduated from UC Berkeley with a BS in Business Administration.

Samuel Audelo, son of Mechanic Saul Audelo, graduated from Don Bosco Technical Institute.

Sidney Avery, daughter of Bus Operator Angelique Webb, graduated from Dorsey High School.

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B

Mariama Badji, daughter of Executive Secretary Sheila Badji, graduated from Crenshaw High School, Honor Roll.

Mark E. Bayless, son of TOS Harry Bayless, graduated from Alta Loma High School, top 5%.

Jesse Bell IV, son of Service Director Delandrea McDaniels and grandson of TOS Oneal McDaniels, graduated from Eisenhower High School.

Morgan Mechelle Bennett, granddaughter of Bus Operator Bettye Jo Mosley, graduated from Chatsworth High School.

Ryan Renee Bennett, granddaughter of Bus Operator Bettye Jo Mosley, graduated from Chatsworth High School.

Brandon J. Black, son of Service Attendant Charles Black, graduated from Morehouse College, with a BA in Political Science.

Simone Elise Blackiston, daughter of Administrative Aide Peggie Blackiston, graduated from Educational Partnership High School.

Jazmine J. Blackman, daughter of Sr Real Estate Ofcr James Blackman, graduated from Chino Hills High School.

Ian Blancarte, son of Acting TOS Sharon Niggl-Blancarte, graduated from Chaffey High School.

Cedric R. Bozeman, son of Benefits Technician Brenda Bozeman-Poindexter, graduated from UCLA with a BA in History.

Bonnie L. Bradford, TOS, graduated from Los Angeles Southwest College with an AA in Law and minor in Music.

KaSaundera Brown, granddaughter of Service Attendant Dennis Mance, graduated from Garden Grove High School, NAACP 2005 Citizen of Distinction, Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition, City of Santa Ana Certificate of Recognition, Principal's Honor Roll.

Derard Buckner, son of Bus Operator Certurice Alexander, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BA in Psychology.

Jessica Burks, daughter of Bus Operator Cynthia Burks, graduated from Locke High School.

Lynelle E. Buyck-Henderson, wife of Rail Operator Melvin Henderson, graduated from CSU Los Angeles, with a BA in Liberal Studies/Pan African Studies.

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C

Leanna M. Cabada, daughter of Rail TOS Manuel Cabada, graduated from St. Paul High School.

Chester A. Cabrales, son of Accounting Supv Sonny Cabrales, graduated from Rio Hondo Community College with an AA in Nursing, College Scholar.

Drew Caldwell, son of DEO Michelle Caldwell, graduated from Cleveland High School, Scholar/Athlete Award.

Nathan Cano, grandson of Equipment Maint Instr Julius Rakisits, graduated from Crescenta Valley High School.

Susan Cariasa-Ginsberg, Sr. Admin Analyst, graduated from Colorado Technical University with a BA in Management, Summa Cum Laude.

Taylor Carr, daughter of Transportation Manager Michael Williams-Carr, graduated from Marymount High School, All League MVP Soccer.

Venessa Carrasco, daughter of Bus Operator Norma M. Carrasco, graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School, Honor Roll and Upward Bound.

Brandon R. Carter, son of Bus Operator Richard M. Carter, graduated from Eastmoor Academy.

Sarita Marie Carter, daughter of Bus Operator Richard M. Carter, graduated from the University of Dayton Ohio with an MS in Education and Community Counseling.

Claudia Casasola, Asst Admin Analyst, graduated from University of Phoenix with a BS in Business Administration.

Genaro Moises Casasola, son of Asst Admin Analyst Claudia Casasola, graduated from Northview High School, Valle Vista League Shot Put Champion.

Denise Castro, daughter of Service Attendant Ldr Jose Castro and Employment Processing Clerk Imelda Castro, graduated from Mount Sac with an AA in transfer studies.

Denise Charles, Asst Admin Analyst, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with a BS in Business Administration.

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Jennifer Chiu, daughter of Dept. Systems Analyst Theresa Chow, graduated from Diamond Bar High School, National and Principal's Honor Roll.

Robbyn Alexis Coffey, daughter of General Manager Dana M. Coffey,

graduated from CSU Los Angeles with a BA in Broadcast Communication Studies, Certificate in Marketing.

Raphael Coleman, son of Bus Operator Shenita Coleman, graduated from Monroe High School.

Terri Collins, daughter of Bus Operator Terry Collins, graduated from Leuzinger High School.

Alexis Contreras, daughter of Bus Operator Jose Contreras, graduated from South Gate High School.

Keeshantae Cotton, daughter of Bus Operator Beverly Dowthard, graduated from City of Angels High School.

Natalie Sky Cordero, granddaughter of Train Operator Susan Tompkins, graduated from Arcadia High School.

Jackelyn Cornejo, Administrative Intern, graduated from Occidental College with a BA in Political Science and Spanish, Deans list and Thesis Distinction.

Maria Elizabeth Cortez, daughter of Bus Operator Bacillo Cortez, graduated from the University of La Verne with a BS in Accounting.

Luis Cruz, son of Bus Operator Luis Cruz, graduated from Workman High School.

Rickey Currington, son of Bus Operator Sheena McClain, graduated from Marshall Fundamental High School.

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D

Catherine De Guzman, daughter of Bus Operator Cesar De Guzman, graduated from City College of New York with a Masters in Education.

Florin Dela Luna, daughter of Bus Operator Flores Dela Luna Jr, graduated from Granada High School, Gold Bearer Award.

April Monique Delgadillo, daughter of Mechanic Mark Delgadillo and Rail Secretary Lupe Delgadillo, graduated from CSU Fullerton with a BA in Sociology.

Audrey P. Diaz, daughter of Bus Operator Ana Diaz-Swayne, graduated from Sylmar High School, Honor Roll.

Dan Duncan, Stock Clerk, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BS in Public Relations.

Diana Dunlap, wife of Service Attendant Relief Ldr Ulysses Dunlap, graduated from Webster University with a BA in Business Administration.

James Dunkelberger, son of Property Maintainer Ldr Sam Dunkelberger, graduated from Highland High School.

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E

Dezinaé Ealey, granddaughter of Bus Operator Nathan C. Young, graduated from Polytechnic High School, President NAACP Youth Council (Long Beach), Certificate of Appreciation Los Angeles County.

Ly'satis Edmond, daughter of Service Attendant Lee Edmond, graduated from Valley View High School.

LaShea Marie England, daughter of Rail Operation Control Mgr Byron England, graduated from Cedar Grove High School, top 10%.

Jonathan Escamilla, son of Bus Operator Rachell Escamilla, graduated from Eagle Rock High School.

Tahsondria D. Evans, daughter of Bus Operator Janet Mitchell, graduated from San Diego State University with an MA in Public Administration.

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F

Pamela Fairbanks, Administrative Aide, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with a BS in Human Services.

***Brandon Famighetti**, son of Asst Maint Mgr Richard Famighetti, graduated from Alta Loma High School.

Krystle Amber Ferreira, daughter of Bus Operator Maureen Valdepeña, graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a BS in Engineering Physics, Cum Laude, Tau Beta Phi, Sigma Pi Sigma.

Vanessa Lynn Ferreira, daughter of Secretary Lida Ferreira, graduated from Rio Hondo College with an AA in Liberal Arts.

Crystal Flores, daughter of DEO Frank Flores, graduated from Mira Costa High School.

Sharif Ford, TOS, graduated from CSU Northridge with a BS in Business Law.

Darwin Tin Wung Fung, son of Engineering Associate Bobby Pei Keung Fung, graduated from UC San Diego with a BS in Structural Engineering, Warren College Honors Program.

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G

Dimitry James Garcia, son of Asst Adm Analyst Elizabeth L. Garcia, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BS in Accounting and Finance.

Monique Garcia, daughter of Bus Operator George T. Garcia, graduated from Centennial High School, Honor Roll.

David Gloss, Administrative Intern, graduated from USC with a Masters in Planning.

Jason Gomez, son of Bus Operator Ricardo Gomez, graduated from St. John Bosco.

Melissa Gomez, stepdaughter of Bus Operator Quintin Mora Haro, graduated from Schur High School.

Samuel Gonzalez, son of Mechanic Jose Gonzalez, graduated from Hoover High School, AP Scholar, top 20.

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Angela Therese Guevara, daughter of Payroll Clerk Edwin Guevara, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BS in Business Administration, Finance Real Estate and Business Law.

Carla Therese Guevara, daughter of Payroll Clerk Edwin Guevara, graduated from Holy Family High School.

Gabriel Guillen, Bus Operator, graduated from UCLA with a BA in Sociology.

Angelina Cristine Guterrez, daughter of Materiel Supervisor Dino Gutierrez, graduated from Nogales High School.

Noah Dino Gutierrez, son of Materiel Supervisor Dino Gutierrez, graduated from UCLA with a BA in Anthropology.

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H

Clarissa Hadge, daughter of Departmental Sys Analyst Jeff Hadge, graduated from Victor Valley Christian School, Salutatorian, ASB President.

Kisha Hancock, daughter of TOS Felecia Jackson, graduated from Westchester High School, Honor Roll.

Kiyana Hancock, daughter of TOS Felecia Jackson, graduated from Westchester High School, Honor Roll.

Cassandra Harris, daughter of Bus Operator Eddie Harris, graduated from Dominquez High School.

Shamika Harris, daughter of Bus Operators Shonda and Douglas Breland, graduated from Hamilton High School.

Tonnisha L. Hawes, daughter of Bus Operator Sheila A. Houston, graduated from Serra Catholic High School.

Kenya M. Henderson, daughter of Train Operator Loretta A. Halliburton, graduated from the University of Nevada Las Vegas with an MS in Engineering.

Jayda D. Herod, daughter of Bus Operator Shameka O'Neal, graduated from Marie Feagan Schools Inc.

Demetrius Reneé Hess, granddaughter of General Svcs Supv Henry Larry, graduated from Lithonia High School.

Ryan Horne, son of Passenger Rel Mgr Tom Horne, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a BS in Economics in Finance, Wharton Senior Honor Society.

Emily Humberstone, daughter of Equip Maint Supv Frank Humberstone, graduated from Cal State Long Beach with a BS in Nursing.

Joi N. Hunter, daughter of Sr. Secretary Avis N. Brame, graduated from American Intercontinental University with a BA in Business Administration.

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J

Matthew T. Jimenez, son of Stock Clerk Joe Jimenez, graduated from Charter Oak High School.

Darrell T. Jimerson, son of Accountant Cynthia Jimerson, graduated from El Camino College with an AA in Business Information Systems.

Nicole C. Jimerson, daughter of Accountant Cynthia Jimerson, graduated from Westchester High School.

Carla A. Johnson, daughter of Bus Operator Carl Johnson, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BA in Criminal Justice and Communications.

Erick Wendell Johnson Jr., grandson of Bus Operator Robert W. Cooks, graduated from USC with a BS in Computer Engineering and Computer Science.

Monique Johnson, son of Service Attendant Vincent Johnson, graduated from King Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science.

Victor Johnson, son of Bus Operator Debra Johnson, graduated from La Sierra High School, Championship Award, All Ivy League Champion.

Britania Jones, daughter of Bus Operator Bridgette Murray, graduated from Maxine Waters High School.

Derwin Ronald Jones Jr., son of Bus Operator Patrisha F. Willis, graduated from David Starr Jordan High School.

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K

Michael Kalustian, Bus Operator, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with an MA in Communications Studies, Magna Cum Laude.

Cynthia Karpman, Transportation Manager, graduated from University of Phoenix with an MBA.

Damina Key, daughter of Bus Operator Tina Cooper, graduated from CSU Dominguez Hills with a BA in Business Administration, International Honor Society, Delta Mu Delta.

Beth Kranda, Asst Transp Mgr, graduated from University of Redlands with an MBA.

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L

Steve Labrada, son of Bus Operator Nellie Labrada, graduated from Animo Charter High School.

Sergio A. Lechuga, son of Sr Contract Administrator Maria Lechuga, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a Bachelor of Architecture, Tau Sigma Delta.

Derek Chevalier Leduff, son of Project Control Supervisor Steven Leduff, graduated from UC Irvine with a BA in English, Creative Writing.

Kistopher Lee, son of Bus Operator Eric Lee, graduated from UC Riverside with a BA in History.

Miranda Lee, daughter of Bus Operator Eric Lee, graduated from Alhambra High School.

Shayna LeFlore, daughter of Service Attendant Shonda Eaton, graduated from Crenshaw High School, Honor Roll.

Alisa Lieu, daughter of Facilities Sys Tech Dat Lieu, graduated from UCLA with a BA in Political Science.

Arlene Grace Lim, daughter of Materiel Control Clerk Armando Lim, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with a BA in Broadcast Journalism, Deans List.

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M

Jason E. Madison, son of Equip Rec Spclst Holly A. Lyons, graduated from Verbum Dei High School, Principal's Honor Roll.

Marisa Elena Madrid, daughter of Rail Equip Maint Supv, graduated from St. Joseph's Catholic High School, California and National Honor Society, National Youth Leadership Council.

Crashunna Denise Magee, daughter of Bus Operator Jacqueline Jones, graduated from AB Miller High School.

Annie S. Marboa-Eleby, wife of Bus Operator James Eleby, graduated from Springfield University with a BA in Child Development.

Brittany P. Marshall, daughter of Bus Operator Cheryl C. Rhodes, graduated from Valley Alternative Magnet School, High Honors.

William Martin, son of Rail TOS Paul Martin, graduated from Canyon Springs High School.

Genesis Leviticus Matthews, daughter of Bus Operator Elvia L. Matthews, graduated from the UC Santa Barbara with a BA in Political Science and minor in English.

Malachi Zephaniah Matthews, son of Bus Operator Elvia L. Matthews, graduated from Narbonne High School.

Jajuan McCoy, son of Bus Operator Ceclia Smith, graduated from Azusa High School.

Jenisha McCoy, daughter of Bus Operator Ceclia Smith, graduated from Azusa High School, Gov of Leadership, Honor Roll.

Laura Melidona, daughter of Mechanic Jaime Lozano, graduated from West Covina High School.

Justin Paul Mellon, son of Asst Transp Mgr Peter W. Mellon Jr, graduated from Rancho Cucamonga High School.

Megan Mendoza, daughter of Contract Administrator Ben Mendoza, graduated from La Quinta High School.

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Rebecca Moir, wife of Train Operator Victor Moir, graduated from Antelope Valley College with an AA in Child and Family Education, Certificate of Achievement.

Myesha Moncrief, daughter of Bus Operator Willie Thompson, graduated from CSU San Bernardino with a BA in English and Psychology.

Gina Montenegro, daughter of TOS Edward Gomez, graduated from California Baptist University with a BA in Sociology.

Aaron Charles Montoya, son of Transit Security Sgt. Rudy Montoya, graduated from Rowland Adult and Community Education School.

Stephanie Mora, daughter of Bus Operator Quintin Mora Haro, graduated from Schur High School.

Diego Alfredo Morales, son of Bus Operator Maria Campos, graduated from Downtown Magnet High School.

Tashiona Morrow, daughter of Bus Operator Ceclia Smith, graduated from Merric College with an AS in Business.

Kenneth Mosinski, Maint Spclst, graduated from West Valley Occupational Center with a certificate in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Service.

David Murakami, son of Sr. Auditor Keith Murakami, graduated from UC San Diego with a BS in Biochemistry.

Lovell A. Brion Murrell, son of Train Operator Glenda Murrell, graduated from Connally High School, Academic Honors, National Athletic Academic All Star Honor, Top 15%.

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N

Jessica N. Naranjo, daughter of Systems Elect Comm Tech Raul Naranjo, graduated from Calvary Chapel Upland Christian Academy.

Michael D. Neyland Jr., son of Bus Operator Andrea Cunningham, graduated from CSU Dominguez Hills with a BA in Travel and Tourism.

O

Rene Olivo III, son of Stock Clerk Rene Olivo Jr., graduated from Damien High School.

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P

Candace M. Pairis, granddaughter of Sr. Buyer Joanne Cummings, graduated from Villa Park High School.

Greg Parvin, Materiel Supervisor, graduated from Biola University with a BS in Business and Organizational Leadership, Honors.

Shahil Patel, daughter of Deputy Project Manager Hitesh Patel, graduated from Troy High School, Honors and International Baccalaureate.

Domonique Paton, daughter of Traction Pwr Lead Inspector Floyd Paton, graduated from Van Nuys High School, Homecoming Queen.

Austin Patterson, son of Bus Operator Angela Hardiman, graduated from Paramount High School.

Katie Patton, daughter of ITS Office Supervisor Kelly Kline Patton, graduated from Esperanza High School.

Sheri C. Patton, daughter of Supvg Accts Payable Clerk Velda Medlock, graduated from El Camino Community College with an AS in Fashion Merchandising, Deans List.

Troy Morgan Payne, son of Mechanic Ldr Michael Payne, graduated from Loyola Marymount with a BA in Computer Science.

Brittany Payton, daughter of Schedule Checker Ladell Brown, graduated from Y.O.U. Los Angeles, Honor Roll

Edward R. Perez, son of Bus Operator Eduardo A. Perez, graduated from UC Riverside with a BA in Political Science, Dean's List.

Luis C. Perez, Mechanic, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with a BA in Political Science, Public Administration.

Javon Prince, son of Bus Operator Socorra Paige-Prince, graduated from Daminequez High School, Perfect Attendance.

Kristine Pronuevo, daughter of Accountant Noemi Pronuevo, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with a BA in Accounting.

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Q

Yvette Quezada, daughter of Service Attendant Jesse Quezada,

graduated from Rosemead High School, Gold Seal Bearer.

R

Raquel Morales Ramage, daughter of Transportation Project Manager Ernest T. Morales, graduated from Loyola Marymount University with an MBA in Business Finance.

Edward Ramirez Jr., son of Equip Records Specialist Theresa Ramirez, graduated from Verdugo Hills High School.

Conrad P. Ratcliffe, son of Bus Operator Rudy Ratcliffe, graduated from North High School.

Collin Alan Reedy, son of Asst Transp Mgr Ron Reedy, graduated from U.C. Davis with a BA in Economics.

Tina Renn, daughter of Graphic Designer Theresa Renn, graduated from Tesoro High School.

Theresa J. Renn, daughter of Graphic Designer Theresa Renn, graduated from Saddleback College of Nursing with a BS in Nursing.

Bassar Richardson, Contract Admnstr, graduated from University of Phoenix with a Masters in Business.

Pablo A. Rios, son of Division Stenographer Rosa Rios, graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BA in Sociology.

Doreatha Roberts, Administrative Analyst, graduated from the University of Phoenix with an MBA in Business Administration.

Chachiona Robinson, daughter of Bus Operator Latrice Edwards, graduated from Foshay High School.

Michelle Rojas, daughter of Maintenance Instructor Carlos Rojas, graduated from CSU Fullerton with a BS in Child and Adolescent Development.

Jerome N. Rosal, son of Schedule Checker Jesus Rosal and Customer Info Agt. Amelia Rosal, graduated from CSU Fullerton with a BA in Communication.

Rosalie Rosales, daughter of Executive Secretary Stephanie Kaping, graduated from La Puente High School.

Adam Rosenberg, son of Admin and Financial Services Manager Steve Rosenberg, graduated from Westlake High School, SSF award, Scholar Athlete and AP Scholar with honors.

Haudine Rubio, son of Mechanic Ldr Yezid Rubio, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BS in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management.

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S

Lizette Salazar, daughter of Bus Operator Ruben Salazar, graduated from Apple Valley High School, CSF, Honor Roll Society and Who's

Who Among American High School Students.

Megan Ann Sambrano, granddaughter of Service Attendant Michael Medina, graduated from Desert Vista High School, National Honor Society.

Bridget Sanchez, daughter of Transportation Planning Mgr Kathleen Sanchez, graduated from Monrovia High School, Gold Seal graduate.

Jose M. Santana Jr., son of Service Attendant Jose Santana Sr., graduated from Baldwin Park High School.

James Anthony Sharp, son of Customer Info Agent Charlette Sharp and Equip Rec Spclst James Sharp, graduated from CSU Dominguez Hills with a BS in Business Management.

Marika Shantel Sheppard, daughter of TOS Jural Sheppard, graduated from Jonesboro High School, Thompson Minority Scholarship, Academic Merit Scholarship.

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Ronté Davon Sheppard, son of TOS Jural Sheppard, graduated from Arkansas State University with a BS in Exercise Science.

Carlos Silva Jr, son of Fare Collection Tech Carlos Silva, graduated from South Hills High School.

Michael Silva, son of Exec Secretary Elizabeth Silva, graduated from Los Angeles County High School for the Arts.

Shemaiah I. Skinner, daughter of Mechanic Leonard Skinner, graduated from Etiwanda High School.

Ami Smith, daughter of Accounting Asst Jessica Smith, graduated from South El Monte High School, CSF Gold Seal Bearer, Principal's Scholarship Recipient.

Wesley Smith, grandson of Bus Operator Robert Cooks, graduated from Valley View High School.

Lysa Mari Snowden, granddaughter of Secretary Joanne Harper, graduated from CSU Los Angeles with an MS in Counseling: Applied Behavior Analysis.

Jenece Solomon, daughter of Accounting Supervisor Jerry Solomon, graduated from University of California Hastings College of Law with a JD, Cum Laude and Thurston Society.

Mahoganie Speed, daughter of Rail TOS Wayne Speed, graduated from LA Southwest Community College with an AS in Engineering.

Allison K. Spivack, daughter of Transportation Mgr Gary Spivack, graduated from Cleveland High School, Community Service Award, Avid.

Diana Suarez, daughter of Bus Operator Ricardo A. Suarez, graduated from Sunny Hills High School, High Honors.

Jonathan V. Subillaga, son of Mechanic Renato Subillaga, graduated from Don Bosco Technical Institute.

Jonathan Sum, son of mechanic Paul Sum, graduated from University of Southern California with a DPT in Kinesiology, Order of the Golden Circle, Kathleen Bice Award, APTA Orthopedic Section Outstanding Physical Therapy Student Award, Helen Bishop Award, APTA Minority Scholarship Award.

Robert Sum, son of mechanic Paul Sum, graduated from UC Irvine with a BA in Economics.

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T

Manuel Tadena Jr., son of Mechanic Manuel Tadena Sr., graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BA in Graphic Design.

Carmen Tellez, daughter of Bus Operator Constantino Tellez, graduated from UC Riverside with a BA in History.

Alexander Tenchavez, son of Bus Operator Alberto Tenchavez, graduated from Mountain View High School.

Charles Thompson II, son of TOS Adrienne Gipson, graduated from David Starr Jordan High School, Honor Roll.

Brandee Angelique Tilman, daughter of WC Investigation Mgr Pamela Murano, graduated from Georgetown Law with an LLM in Taxation, Dean's List, graduated with distinction.

Steven R. Timberman Jr., son of Director of Info. Management Steven Timberman, graduated from Los Osos High School, National Honor Society and Cum Laude.

Dominique Trejo, daughter of Sr. Workers Comp Analyst Rosemary Ybarra, graduated from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising with an AA in Merchandise Product Development.

Lauro Trejo, Traction Pwr Inspector, graduated from El Camino College with an AS in Business.

Laura Nicole Tubbs, daughter of Bus Operator Lawrence Tubbs, graduated from Santa Fe High School.

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V

Indya Soniree Vernon, granddaughter of TOS Jeannette Mayo, graduated from Virginia Allred Stacy High School, All America Scholar, Mt. Holly Oak Award.

Marques Xavier Varela, son of TOS Xavier Varela, graduated from Salt Lake Community College with an AS in General Education.

W

Alicia C. Walker, Sr. Administrative Analyst, graduated from University of Phoenix with a BS in Business Administration.

Chandra LADai Whitaker, daughter of Rail TOS Karen Whitaker, graduated from South Bay Lutheran High School, Salutatorian, National Honor Roll Society and Principal's Honor Roll.

Tajuana White, daughter of Bus Operator Certurice Alexander, graduated from Lawndale High School.

Alicia Williams, daughter of Rail TOS Karl Williams, graduated from CSU Northridge with a BS in Political Science, Academic Honors.

Perry Williams, Communications Intern, graduated from CSU Los Angeles, with a BA in Broadcast Journalism.

Jasmine S. Willis, daughter of Electronic Comm. Tech Nathaniel Willis and Equip Rec Spclst Shirley Willis, graduated from Narbonne High School.

Renee C. Willis, Administrative Analyst, graduated from University of Phoenix with a BS in Business Administration.

Ricky Wilson, son of Train Operator Angela Bacon, graduated from Valencia High School.

Jared Wong, son of Mechanic Delphin Wong, graduated from Valencia High School, Honor Roll.

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Z

Christopher Zambrano, son of Bus Operator Luis C. Zambrano, graduated from ITT Technical Institute with a BA in Industrial Automation, Honors '01-'05.

Nicole A. Zisner, daughter of Bus Operator Benjamin Zisner, graduated from Culver City High School, Principal's Honor Roll, Presidential Gold Award, and Scholarship League.

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Metro Blue Line Ridership Reaches Record Level

- Average weekday boardings reach 76,030 in May

By DAVE SOTERO

Ridership on the Metro Blue Line reached a record this May, with more than 76,000 average weekday boardings, the highest month of ridership since the 22-mile rail line between Los Angeles and Long Beach opened in 1990.

Metro Blue Line ridership has averaged between 65,000 and 70,000 average weekday boardings for most of 2004 and early 2005. In March, however, ridership jumped to 75,122. April ridership reached 73,883.

So far this fiscal year, Metro Blue Line ridership has reached 20.9 million boarding passengers, which nears the all-time record of 22.1 million boarding set in June 2003.

The increase may be partially a result of higher gasoline prices in the Los Angeles Basin, which have risen to record levels this year.

Boardings on other lines

Average weekday boardings on the Metro Red Line reached 117,703 in May, up from 115,505 in April and even above the previous high of 117,507 recorded in March.

Metro Green Line ridership hit 32,815 in May, up from 31,431 in April and just under the FY 2005 high of 33,227 average weekday boardings set in March.

On the Metro Gold Line, average weekday boardings of 14,991 were down slightly from the FY 2005 high of 15,357 reached in April.


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Metro Freeway Service Patrol to Expand Middays, Weekends

- MFSP has helped nearly 4 million stranded motorists

By ED SCANNELL

(June 24, 2005) The Board has approved a \$3.5 million expansion of the Metro Freeway Service Patrol. The expansion will provide midday and weekend service to freeway segments (beats) that currently do not have the service.

"The Metro Freeway Service Patrol has aided nearly 4 million stranded motorists since the program's inception in 1991," said Board Chairman Frank Roberts. "MFSP's quick response has provided peace of mind to these motorists free of charge, and relief to our traffic clogged freeways."

The intent of the service expansion is to provide a consistent level of service on all beats to address the increasing traffic congestion across the the county's freeway network.

The increase can be attributed to several factors, including population expansion, growth of commuting distances and increased goods movement.

Increase number of trucks

The number of trucks in operation during middays and weekends will be increased from the current 33 during midday and 28 on weekends to 44 during midday and 42 on weekends.

MFSP will continue to provide 147 tow and service trucks during peak hours. The hours of service will be 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends.

This increase in MFSP deployment represents Phase I of a two-phase service expansion. Phase II would initiate new service in the remaining areas of LA County, such as I-5 in Santa Clarita and Route 210 from Pasadena to San Fernando, that currently do not have service.

The Metro Freeway Service Patrol serves more than 400 miles of Los Angeles County freeways. The program is jointly managed by Metro, CHP and Caltrans and is funded by state highway funds and Proposition C, the half-cent sales tax approved by voters in 1990.



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www.metro.net/fsp


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Cell Phone Users Can Summon Roadside Help on Freeways

- New #399 number for non-emergency calls begins, July 1
- 9-1-1 will remain in effect for emergency calls

By RICK JAGER

(June 24, 2005) Starting July 1, motorists who experience non-emergency problems on LA County's freeways can dial #399 on their cell phones to summon roadside assistance from the Metro Freeway Service Patrol or their automobile club.

Metro and the Los Angeles County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (LA SAFE) announced the new program, Thursday. Motorists using their cell phones will be connected to a live operator.

"With the influx of cell phone technology, this makes perfect sense in expanding the freeway call box program," said Board Chairman Frank Roberts.

LA SAFE anticipates that the introduction of the #399 number will reduce the burden on the 9-1-1 emergency system. Motorists can call when they need assistance for such non-emergency situations as running out of gas, a flat tire or a vehicle mechanical malfunction out of the freeway travel lanes.

#399 doesn't replace 9-1-1

The new cell phone #399 number does not replace the 9-1-1 emergency number. Motorists should continue to use 9-1-1 when requesting medical, fire or law enforcement response or reporting a hazard on a freeway travel lane.

"This is a great tool in our effort to reduce traffic congestion on our freeways," said Los Angeles Mayor-Elect Antonio Villaraigosa. "It will benefit the motorist looking for immediate assistance and also will help all Los Angeles County residents and the California Highway Patrol by providing a reliable and easy alternative for motorists to call when they need help."

Officials estimate motorists using the #399 number will make an average of 10,000 calls per month in the first year. LA SAFE won't charge the caller to handle the call, but cell phone companies may charge callers for the minutes they use.

Now your cellphone is a callbox.

Just dial #399 for motorist aid.

Dial #399 from your cellphone to:

- > request Metro Freeway Service Patrol tow service
- > report freeway road hazards
- > contact your auto club
- > report freeway damage or needed repair

The #399 service is:

- > fully-staffed by English and Spanish speaking operators
- > available to provide translation assistance in over 150 languages and equipped to serve the deaf, hearing and speech impaired
- > always open - accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week by cellphone

Remember, #399 does not replace 911. Use 911 if you need medical, fire department or law enforcement response. But for all non-emergency freeway assistance, dial #399.

M Metro

CALL BOX

Safety-themed Metro "take one" is also online at www.metro.net

As the #399 number goes into service, the number of calls from freeway call boxes has dropped from about 40,000 a month in the 1990s to about 9,000 a month today.

'Comes at a great time'

"The introduction of this new non-emergency cell phone number comes at a great time as we plan to expand the successful Metro Freeway Service Patrol program on Southland freeways," said CEO Roger Snoble.

Effective July 1, the Metro Freeway Service Patrol will expand selected weekday and weekend service in existing patrol areas providing service from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the weekends. The number of Metro Freeway Service Patrol tow trucks will increase from 33 to 44 in midday during the week and from 28 to 42 on the weekends.

Funding for the new #399 non-emergency cell phone number is provided by LA SAFE, which obtains its revenues from an annual \$1 vehicle registration surcharge assessed on each vehicle registered in Los Angeles County. Cost of the program is estimated at \$1 million a year.

LA SAFE was created in 1988 and is responsible for providing motorist aid services in Los Angeles County.

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PHOTO: RICH MORALLO



Metro Bus Operator Elvia Matthews makes passengers smile by decorating her driver's compartment with cartoon characters.

Older Sister's Career Inspired Elvia Matthews to Join Metro

- Matthews passes her experiences along to students

By RICH MORALLO

(June 28, 2005) Flushed with excitement, 12-year old Elvia Matthews sat down on the big city bus and watched with pride as her older sister, Jeannette, navigated the vehicle down the street.

"I thought it was incredible to see a woman in charge of the bus." Matthews remembers how impressed she was in 1975 that her sister helped passengers get where they needed to go.

"Even today, some students are still surprised to see that a woman can operate a public bus," says Matthews, recalling that bus ride with her sister.

Today, 30 years later, Matthews herself is a Carson Division 18 operator and a member of the Division Ambassador Council who often talks to young students about the Metro Bus system.

"Last week, I was at Cimarron Avenue Elementary School in Hawthorne and I talked to four different classes about how to ride Metro safely," she says.

'We can serve as role models'

"It's important for Metro staff to visit schools and students, since the agency is a part of the community, and as professionals we can serve as role models," says Matthews, who volunteered recently to participate in the school's career day.

A single mother of three, Matthews told the Hawthorne students about the importance of education and staying in school.

"I shared with them how my own children studied and worked hard to get good grades," she says. Her eldest is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara; the second child is at El Camino and the youngest has just graduated from high school.

Some students had questions about safety and Matthews explained to them how operators receive safety training, follow rules and procedures, and work closely with the Sheriff's deputies.

"I explained to them that Safety is First, but I also like to make my passengers smile," laughs Matthews as she describes how she decorates her driver's compartment with a Sponge Bob seat cover.

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Update: Viewing Scheduled for the Late Gary Clark

- Memorial service set for Wednesday, June 29

(June 28, 2005) A closed casket viewing for Gary Clark, who died at his home June 23, has been scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., today, at Rose Hills Mortuary and Memorial Park. (See [Obituary](#))

The viewing will be held in the mortuary building, located at 3888 S. Workman Mill Road in Whittier (562-699-0921).

A memorial service for Clark, who was Metro's deputy executive officer for Government Relations and Board Research Services, is scheduled at 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 29, at Grace United Methodist Church, 2325 E. 3rd St., Long Beach (562-433-7401).


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Board OKs Contracts for ATMS Equipment, Cameras and Robots

(June 28, 2005) Purchase of ATMS equipment for contractor-operated buses, replacement of obsolete surveillance cameras and purchase of new robotic carts are among the items approved by the Board of Directors in June.

Item 28. ATMS Equipment. Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) equipment will be installed on 100 contractor-operated Metro buses and in two road supervisor vehicles.

Metro will purchase the equipment under a \$2 million contract awarded to Motorola, Inc. Installing the system will enhance the Bus Operations Center's ability to address emergency situations quickly, as well as allowing Metro's Contract Services field representatives to better monitor and manage contractor-operated buses.

Item 37. Surveillance Cameras. Obsolete surveillance cameras installed on 130 Neoplan buses in the late 1990s will be replaced under a \$667,162 contract awarded to GE Infrastructure Security.

The new cameras can be integrated into the Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) for storing and transmitting images to a central monitoring system.

Item 32. RRC Robots. The 11 robotic carts, called Automated Guideway Vehicles (AGV), that deliver parts and material to various locations within the Regional Rebuild Center will be replaced under a \$1.7 million contract awarded to HK Systems, Inc., of Salt Lake City.

The contract includes purchase of 11 new AGVs and an upgrade of the computer control system to radio frequency technology that will replace the outdated and problematic wire guidance system that directs the driverless carts around the RRC and Central Warehouse.



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Downtown Bus Service Rerouted for Friday’s Mayoral Inaugural

By JOSÉ UBALDO

(June 29, 2005) Some Metro Bus service in downtown LA will be rerouted Friday, July 1, due to activities before and after the inauguration of Antonio Villaraigosa as mayor of Los Angeles.

The service detours will begin on most streets around 8:30 a.m. and will end at 11:30 a.m. Only Metro Bus Lines 33, 92, 434 will be detoured from 5 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

All Metro Bus stops will be posted with instructions on where to board buses during the detours. The Metro Red Line, with stops at Pershing Square and Civic Center, will be the best way to avoid traffic.

Metro Bus service will be detoured on:

- Temple Street between Alameda Street and Grand Avenue.
- First Street between Broadway and Los Angeles Street.
- Spring Street between Aliso Street and Second Street.
- Main Street between Aliso Street and First Street.
- Broadway between Aliso Street and First Street.
- Hill Street between Aliso Street and First Street.

Forty-eight Metro Bus lines will be affected. They are Lines 2, 4, 10, 11, 28, 30, 31, 33, 38, 40, 42, 45, 46, 48, 68, 71, 76, 78, 79, 81, 83, 84, 85, 90, 91, 92, 94, 96, 302, 328, 370, 376, 381, 394, 434, 439, 442, 444, 445, 446, 447, 484, 485, 487, 489, 490, 740 and 745.


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Mayor-Elect Antonio Villaraigosa to Set Rapid Pace for Metro

By ED SCANNELL

(June 29, 2005) Los Angeles Mayor-elect Antonio Villaraigosa, who will be sworn in as chairman of the Board of Directors in July, plans to set a rapid pace for Metro during his term in office.

"It's a challenging time at Metro, but also an ideal time to challenge Metro to raise its level of performance," said Villaraigosa. "I have an ambitious transportation agenda that includes a first-class bus system, an expanded rail system and less congested roadways to be implemented over the next decade-and-a-half."

"It will take all the discipline and energy we can muster to realize both this agency's short-term agenda and its long-term vision, but we have to do it if we're to preserve and enhance mobility in Los Angeles," he added.

Villaraigosa will succeed Board Chairman Frank Roberts, who has served in the post since July, 2004. The new chairman will hold the position until June 30, 2006.

Former Assembly speaker

Villaraigosa was elected to the state Assembly in 1994 and was chosen Speaker of the Assembly in 1998. Most recently he served as LA City Councilmember for the 14th District and chaired the Council's transportation committee.

In August 2003, Villaraigosa was appointed to the Board by former Mayor James Hahn, a position he held until September 2004.

He also served on the board of the former SCRTD between July 1991 and June 1993 and as a Board alternate between July 1993 and June 1994.

The 13-member MTA Board is composed of the five LA County supervisors, four members appointed by the LA County City Selection Committee, and the Mayor of Los Angeles and three mayoral appointees. The position of Board chair rotates among the three groups.



Los Angeles Mayor-elect Antonio Villaraigosa will be sworn in as chair of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors in July.


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VIEW FROM THE 25th FLOOR

Exciting Year Ahead with Mayor Villaraigosa as Board Chairman

By CEO ROGER SNOBLE



CEO Roger Snoble

The Fourth of July fireworks that will help get Metro's Fiscal Year 2006 off to a rousing start will symbolize the exciting and challenging year ahead of us.

We'll welcome Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in July as our new Board chairman. We'll open the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley in late fall – an event that also will see the first use of the Metro Liner articulated buses. In addition, we'll open more Metro Rapid lines on crowded transit corridors.

You probably saw pictures of the new 2550 light-rail vehicle arriving earlier this month at LAX. The car is now undergoing testing for operation on the Metro Gold Line later this year.

We also can't forget the challenges posed by our budget deficit and our continuing struggle to obtain \$300 million in Proposition 42 transportation funding from Sacramento, and \$80 million from Washington for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension.

A lot to hand over

All this is a lot to hand over to Mayor Villaraigosa. But, he has a deep knowledge of our agency, having served as recently as nine months ago as a member of our Board and, earlier, on the SCRTD Board.

During the mayoral campaign, he talked about the importance of the Exposition light-rail project and mentioned extending the Metro Red Line beyond Wilshire/Western – something other Board members have discussed.

The mayor-elect has always been a big proponent of excellent bus service that's clean, free of graffiti and serves the public well. I expect he'll bring energy and focus to our continued efforts to provide quality bus service.

Key appointments

Mayor Villaraigosa will make three appointments to the Board. The four City of Los Angeles seats have always been an important factor in the 13-member Board's decision-making. Another key appointment will be a staff representative who will work with us to set the monthly Board agendas.

We can expect a fast-paced year, one that will keep us on our toes in

meeting the challenges ahead. It bodes well that we'll have someone of Mayor Villaraigosa's energy and caliber to lead the Board.

I want to close by thanking Mayor Frank Roberts for his leadership, hard work and support as our Board chairman this past year. He's driven long distances to our meetings and has done a great job representing an important section of the county. I wish him well and look forward to working with him on the Board.

June 29, 2005

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Services to be Held for DA McClain

- Services will be held July 8 at 11 a.m. at Holy Angels Church, 370 Campus Drive, in Arcadia (91007).



DA McClain

McKenzie, 10.

UPDATE (June 30, 2005) Funeral services will be held July 8 for DA McClain, board transportation deputy, who died Tuesday night.

The services are scheduled for 11 a.m. at Holy Angels Church, 370 Campus Drive, in Arcadia (91007). For information, you may call 626.447.1671.

McClain, 43, died at her home in Arcadia following a long struggle with cancer. She is survived by her son, Hussein, 23, and daughter

McClain joined Metro in May 1991 as a public affairs representative and later worked as a communications officer. In May 1995 she was assigned to Gateway Division 10 as an administrative analyst.

In 1998, she was promoted to chief administrative analyst and worked in Board Research Services where she supported Board members Jose Legaspi and, later, Beatrice Proo. She was appointed Board Transportation Deputy upon Director Proo's selection to the MTA Board in July 2000.

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Thang Tran is ready to welcome passengers aboard Metro Express Line 450X.



Sleepless Night Produced Idea for Metro Express Service

By RICH MORALLO

(June 30, 2005) Schedules supervisor Thang Tran couldn't sleep one night in mid-April as thoughts of operating an express line in the South Bay kept him awake.

"I always have ideas on how to make public transit simple and fast," said Tran. The concept of an express bus from the Artesia Transit Center to downtown Los Angeles fascinated him.

The next morning, Tran briefed his managers on his late-night ideas and got their concurrence.

"After that followed an intense two-week period of confirming the feasibility of the express service with several Metro departments, including Scheduling, the bus division, Fleet Management, Facilities Maintenance, Stops and Zones, and Marketing and

PHOTOS: RICH MORALLO



Gateway Cities General Manager Alex Clifford congratulates South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey on the startup of the Metro Express.

Communications," said Tran.

"Everyone said OK," he recalled. "Our test trips gave us good results and we planned an express schedule on the Harbor Transitway with only one stop at the Metro Green Line Station, cutting the trip to downtown to under 30 minutes."

Welcomed passengers

On Wednesday, about two and a half months after that sleepless night, Tran welcomed passengers aboard Metro Express 450X Line buses at the Artesia Transit Center.

"This a great day for South Bay residents who want a faster trip to Los Angeles," said Tran, standing in the doorway of the blue 40-seat NewFlyer low - floor bus.

"To promote the line, we staged an open house at the center with information tables and offered free rides for three days this week," said Service Development Manager Madeline Van Leuvan.

The line will operate during peak hours Monday through Friday, with four roundtrips in both the morning and afternoon.

Passengers like the new service.

'Line is just wonderful'

"I rode the 450X yesterday and will ride it again today," said Jim Coburn with DMJM Harris, who caught the 6:55 a.m. bus on Wednesday. "I've been using the Artesia Transit Center for five years to travel to my office downtown, and this new express line is just wonderful."

Coburn's family has a history with local transit. His father helped design El Monte Division 9 and his grandfather was a scheduler for the SCRTD.

Also catching the 6:55 a.m. bus was Shirley Groves, who was headed to the downtown courts. She noted that Metro Express is a "quicker ride," compared to other Metro lines from the South Bay.

"I like it," said Paul Sammson, who on the return Metro Express trip also noted that it was a faster ride.

Ideas benefited transit



Passengers board the new Metro Express line at the Artesia Transit Center, bound for downtown Los Angeles



From left, Division 5 Operator Jean Dykes, Administrative Analyst Dixie Dorsett, TOS Debbie Blair and Division 5 Operator Marcia Walker staffed an information table during an open house at the Artesia Transit Center.

Tran, recently recognized as a Metro Employee of the Quarter, has had other ideas that benefited local transit and Metro.

The five-year Metro supervisor started a route masters program that centralized bus operator assignment instructions from 30 different files, and created a network folder that shared bus schedule information with other Metro departments.

"I appreciate General Manager Dana Coffey and Service Development Manager Madeline Van Leuvan for their openness, full support and encouragement; my team partners for their collaboration and diligent work; and all involved departments for their collaboration and quick turn-around." said Tran.

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Re-useable vinyl balloon signals open house at Artesia Transit Center



Beautiful Balloon: Go Metro' Marks the Spot for Metro Express

By RICH MORALLO

(June 30, 2005) Service Development Manager Madeline Van Leuvan was looking for a way to promote the June 29 open house at the Artesia Transit Center so people would know where to come to try out the new Metro Express Line 450X.

"I found my answer in the sky," laughed Van Leuvan as she explained how she saw a giant balloon floating over a nearby shoe store in Torrance.

Van Leuvan contacted the Orange County company that sells the balloons and obtained information and pricing on the eye-catching product.

"I also coordinated with Metro Marketing and the Design Shop to have the artwork for the agency logo and "Go Metro" placed on our blue eight-foot tall sphere," she said.

On the morning of the open house, staff members secured the vinyl balloon with a nylon tether to the roof of the Transit Center building, pumped

Up
Up
and
Away



helium into it and floated it about 80 feet overhead to help mark the location of the new Metro Express line in the South Bay.

"Our Division Ambassador Council volunteers intend to recyle the balloon and use it at our major community events and divison open houses," said Van Leuvan. "We'll advise the community in our neighborhood flyers and e-mail announcement to look for the "Go Metro" balloon."



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Services to be Held for DA McClain

- Services will be held July 8 at 11 a.m. at Holy Angels Church, 370 Campus Drive, in Arcadia (91007).



DA McClain

McKenzie, 10.

UPDATE (June 30, 2005) Funeral services will be held July 8 for DA McClain, board transportation deputy, who died Tuesday night.

The services are scheduled for 11 a.m. at Holy Angels Church, 370 Campus Drive, in Arcadia (91007). For information, you may call 626.447.1671.

McClain, 43, died at her home in Arcadia following a long struggle with cancer. She is survived by her son, Hussein, 23, and daughter

McClain joined Metro in May 1991 as a public affairs representative and later worked as a communications officer. In May 1995 she was assigned to Gateway Division 10 as an administrative analyst.

In 1998, she was promoted to chief administrative analyst and worked in Board Research Services where she supported Board members Jose Legaspi and, later, Beatrice Proo. She was appointed Board Transportation Deputy upon Director Proo's selection to the MTA Board in July 2000.

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General Manager Gerald Francis acknowledged the top contenders at the 2005 local and International Raildeo. Also on hand at the presentation were, from left, Esther Pippins, Ruben Ramirez, Ramon Alvarez, Melvin Clark, Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos, Dave Kubicek and Russell Homan.



2005 Raildeo Celebration: A Salute to Metro Rail Skill and Family

By ARLENE LIM

(June 30, 2005) With the competition behind them, Metro Rail employees and their families enjoyed the festivities of the Metro Raildeo 2005 Celebration, June 25, at Metro Red Line Division 20.

The celebration honored the skills of the people who operate the Metro Rail system – both transportation and maintenance.

"But just as important, sometimes more important, it brings us together in a social environment where we don't have layers of management - where we're just people," said Deputy CEO John Catoe.

This year the Los Angeles Metro Rail team finished second overall at the 2005 APTA International Rail Rodeo.

'A great group'

"It epitomizes the fact that we have a great group of individuals throughout Rail Operations," said General Manager Gerald Francis.

Mechanics Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo placed a close second behind the Maryland Transit Authority team in the Maintenance portion of the competition.



Instructor Esther Pippins
thanked Metro Rail team for

Veteran Raildeo competitor Tu Phan and teammate Ruben Ramirez came in third in the Rail Operator competition.

their hard work at the 2005 APTA International Rail Rodeo.

"Any time you have teams place second and third from the same agency, it's very blessed," said Rail Operations DEO Dave Kubicek.

The second- and third-place finish at the APTA International Rail Rodeo was recognized during a formal presentation at the June 25 celebration.

Francis, Kubicek and Rail Operations DEO Melvin Clark expressed their appreciation to all who participated in both the local and international events, and to the families for their support.

Working in the background

"My thanks to the instructors, Russell (Homan) and Esther (Pippins), for the training and attention they give to the contestants," said Clark. "They're in the background working hard long before we ever get to the competition."

The top three finishers in Transportation were Tu Phan with 848 points, Ruben Ramirez with 703 points and Ramon Alvarez with 698 points.

Rounding out the top three in Maintenance were Ronnie Burt with 905 points, Eric Czintos with 885 points, and Rafaele Mastrangelo with 786 points.

The local competition winners were presented a plaque, logo jacket and ribbon commemorating their accomplishment.

Unlike past years, this year's celebration did not coincide with the Raildeo competition, which was held last April.

"It's a new concept, a first-year model, and so far it's worked out," explained Community Relations Manager Wilbur Babb.

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Bikes, food and festivities are major attractions at 2005 Raildeo Celebration.



PHOTO: ARLENE LIM

Food, Family and Fun Highlighted 2005 Raildeo Celebration

By PERRY WILLIAMS

(June 30, 2005) Food, family, festivities and fun highlighted the Metro Raildeo Celebration, June 25, at Metro Red Line Division 20.

Employees gathered not only to recognize the rail operators and maintenance teams, they also came to enjoy fellowship with one another in a social atmosphere outside of the workplace.

With both the local and international competitions already over, everyone had a chance to enjoy the music, food and games, rather than worry about their events.

Comfortable temperatures made the environment conducive for families to enjoy the bright, cloudless day.



PHOTOS BY BILL HEARD

Sparkling in the bright morning sun, 25 motorcycles were on display at Division 20. On cue, members of the "Just Us" motorcycle club revved up an ear-thumping "rolling thunder."

Upbeat music played by DJ Reggie Winans kept the crowd on their feet, while their mouths watered at the smell of barbeque provided by Rembrandt Catering.

Danced the afternoon away

Most enjoyed the music by Winans and the band, Upward Mobility, which rotated from smooth jazz to salsa. Many mouthed the words to the songs, while others danced the afternoon away.

"I'm having fun enjoying the music, and good company," said Rail Operator Ramon Alvarez who finished third in the local competition.

Music wasn't the only thing that filled the air; the aroma of the barbeque was unmistakable – BBQ ribs, chicken, links, potato salad, beans. For the kids, hot dogs, and hamburgers.

Children were kept busy at several activities. An inflatable jumping house occupied their time and energy.

The Metro Experience mobile theater, a virtual reality mini-movie designed to teach youth about rail safety, also served as entertainment and education. The theater travels to community fairs and arts festivals, and has reached more than 1.2 million viewers.

Maintenance tours

Tours of the Metro Red Line maintenance facility were provided by Manuel Precie, assistant manager of the Metro Red Line.

An interesting treat for those in attendance at the Raildeo Celebration was the display of motorcycles.

Some of the bikes were owned by members of the "Just Us" motorcycle touring club. The club was organized so that Metro



Two-year-old Kelsey Williston, granddaughter of Rail Fleet Services Manager George Kennedy, had a great time bouncing in the Jumping House.



The smell of barbecue wafting over the Division 20 yard drew a long line of hungry Raildeo Celebration participants for ribs, hot links, burgers, beans and potato salad.



"It goes where I want to go, when I want to go," said TOS Jerome Humphries, as he wiped dust specks off his 2001 Harley-Davidson during the Raildeo Celebration motorcycle show. Humphries is president of "Just Us," a motorcycle touring club of mostly Metro employees and their families. Recently returned from a trip to Santa Maria, the club next ventures to Tahoe, Reno, Virginia City and Carson City, Nev.

employees and friends who share the hobby could take trips together and enjoy their bikes.

"The event overall was a success," said Community Relations Manager Wilbur Babb. "This is recognition for many of our employees who are on the front lines for Metro." -- *Arlene Lim contributed to this story.*

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