

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[News Releases](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[CEO Hotline](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/
Library](#)[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Retirement
Round-up](#)

Metro Info

[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)[Org Chart](#) (pdf)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[E-Mail Webmaster](#)

myMetro.net archives | Articles from October, 2005

Friday, October 31

[Opening Weekend:](#) An estimated 83, 000 rode the Metro Orange Line ; public's favorable comments buoyed Metro volunteers

PLUS! [A Special Song](#) for the Metro Orange Line

Friday, October 28

[Burst of Orange](#) Opens New Transit Service in the Valley

Metro Orange Line Represents [Many LA County Firsts](#)

Metro Schedules 3 [Community Meetings on Expo](#) Project

Thursday, October 27

[New Policy](#) to Better Accommodate Employees' Religious Obligations

[Division 5 Achieves 365 Days](#) with no Lost-Time Injuries

[Artworks Flourish](#) along the Metro Orange Line

Tuesday, October 25

Metro Orange Line [Opens This Weekend](#) to the Public

[Annual Benefits](#) Open Enrollment Begins Nov. 1

[Metro's Brenda Diederichs](#) to Brief CAC on Labor Issues

Friday, October 21

Former Metro Bus Operator [Sentenced on Fraud Charge](#)

[RRC Employees](#) Celebrate Another Safety and Health Record

[Jake's Adventures:](#) 'Wiley Coyote' Gets a Tongue-Lashing from Animal Control Officer Bob

Thursday, October 20

[City Attorney Charges Metro](#) with Violating State Water Code

12 Selected as [Employees of the Quarter](#) for 4th Quarter

Wednesday, October 19

[Events Scheduled](#) at 5 Stations During Orange Line Opening

Metro, LAUSD Taking [Orange Line Safety Program](#) to Schools

Tuesday, October 18

[View from the 25th Floor](#)> 'Bowled Over' by the Metro Orange Line

[UFS Equipment Installations](#) Move TAP into High Gear

Metro Employees Encouraged to [Help Test TAP Equipment](#)

Friday, October 14

Mayor Villaraigosa Announces [Wilshire Subway Tunnel Panel](#)

Former Metro Bus Operator to Face [Insurance Fraud Charges Bus. Rail Boardings Increase](#) 6.85% over September, 2004

Small Businesses Seek Opportunities to ['Do Business with Metro.'](#)

Thursday, October 13

[Metro Liners Roll Out](#), Sunday, for Orange Line Pre-Revenue Service

[Funeral Services](#) Set for Division 5 TOS William Warren

Wednesday, October 12

[One Year and Counting](#): Division 6 Marks 365 Injury-Free Days

[Division 7 Mechanic's Wife](#) Publishes First Novel

[Hearing Explores Link](#) Between Cancer and Goods Movement

Tuesday, October 11

[Metro Releases Final Environmental Report](#) on Expo Line

[Actor Corbin Bernsen](#) Stars in Joint Promotion with Metro

['Napoleon'](#) Joins the Metro Security Force

Friday, October 7

[Accounting Department](#) Takes National Honors or Excellence in Financial Reporting.

[COUNTDOWN](#): Photos by Ned Racine track the path of construction of the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley.

Thursday, October 6

[Mobility 21 Coalition](#) to tackle traffic at Long Beach summit Nov. 14 - Employees can register now.

[UCLA "Goes Metro"](#) with Metro Discounted Transit Pass Program

Metro Freeway Service Patrol

[Big Rig Tow Service](#) in Gear on the 710

[Back to top](#)

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

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/
Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Metro Board Chairman and Mayor of Los Angeles Antonio Villaraigosa, alongside CEO Roger Snoble and Board Member Bonnie Lowenthal, leads ceremonies Oct. 3 to officially launch Metro Freeway Service Patrol Big Rig Tow Service for the I-710 Freeway.



Photos by Luis Inzunza

Metro Freeway Service Patrol Big Row Tow Service in Gear on the 710

By RICK JAGER

(Oct 3, 2005) In an effort to quickly reduce traffic congestion resulting from breakdowns of big rig trucks traveling along the Long Beach Freeway, Metro today introduced the Metro Freeway Service Patrol Big Rig Tow Service.

"This is a natural for the busy I-710 Freeway with the volumes of big rig trucks that travel along this congested corridor," said Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Chairman Antonio Villaraigosa. "Getting help to big rig truck drivers and getting them out of the way of freeway traffic should go a long way in helping to reduce congestion on this freeway."

Two-year demonstration project

The Metro Freeway Service Patrol Big Rig Tow Service is a two year demonstration project and will use two Metro-owned heavy-duty tow trucks that will operate from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday exclusively along the I-710 (Long Beach Freeway) from Pacific Coast Highway in Long Beach to just north of the I-5 (Santa Ana Freeway) in East Los Angeles, for a total of 18 miles.



Mayor Villaraigosa climbs aboard one of two heavy-duty tow trucks now deployed by the Metro Freeway Service Patrol.

"This demonstration project will be the first of its kind in the nation focused on freeway congestion caused by freight and goods movement along the I-710 freeway," said Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Don Knabe. "We are excited about this project and hope it truly relieves congestion along this important transportation corridor."

Sized for big rigs

The I-710 Big Rig program will operate much like the current successful Metro Freeway Service Patrol program, with the goal of assisting heavy-duty vehicles requiring short-term mechanical assistance, when feasible, or providing a tow to a designated drop location off of the freeway that will allow disabled heavy-duty truck operators to seek longer-term assistance from a provider of their choice.

"Studies show that a disabled heavy-duty type vehicle can significantly increase congestion which negatively impacts air quality as well as travel time," said Long Beach City Councilwoman and Metro Board Member Bonnie Lowenthal. "The congested Long Beach Freeway is a great place to add this type of assistance to improve the flow of traffic along the freeway."

Metro, in partnership with the California Highway Patrol and Caltrans, will work with UC Berkeley in evaluating the demonstration project and offer recommendations on the feasibility of instituting similar heavy-duty tow truck towing services on other heavily traveled truck routes within Los Angeles County.

Cost of the program is not to exceed \$2.5 million for the two-year demonstration project (including an optional third year) and is funded by a one dollar DMV vehicle registration fee for support of the freeway Call Box Program and the Metro Freeway Service Patrol administered through Los Angeles Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (LASAFE).



[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/
Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Metro employees who plan to attend Mobility 21 must include their department's budget account codes and their supervisor's signature on the conference registration form. The employee registration fee is \$125. Registration forms should be forwarded to Jennifer Salamanca at MS 99-19-3. Download Registration Packet here. [\(PDF\)](#)

Does L.A.
Traffic
Hinder
Competition
in World
Markets?



• Annual conference set Nov. 14 at Long Beach Convention Center

By CLAUDIA KEITH

(Oct. 6, 2005) What is transportation's role in the global economy and how does LA's traffic congestion affect Southern California's ability to compete in world markets?

Those are two of many important questions to be addressed at the fourth annual Mobility 21 transportation conference, Nov. 14, at the Long Beach Convention Center.

The conference, scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., will focus on identifying practical solutions to the region's traffic congestion problems.

Presented by Metro and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Automobile Club of Southern California, this year's forum also will explore the safety of LA's transportation infrastructure, as related to homeland security, and traffic congestion's affect on the area's quality of life.

For the past three years, members of the broad-based Mobility 21 coalition have been traveling to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., to present a unified lobbying front to garner additional transportation funding for the region.



CEO Roger Snoble addresses third annual Mobility 21 transportation summit held Aug. 3, 2004, at the Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center. More than 500 government, business, labor and community leaders attended and supported recommendations aimed at improving the region's transportation infrastructure.

Mobility 21 in Washington

This year, the coalition's efforts were rewarded when they were credited with helping to secure an estimated \$4.5 billion in federal funding for highway and transit programs for Los Angeles County. That includes \$833 million in additional earmarks for highway and transit formula funds programmed by Metro.

In addition, the new federal dollars will give a boost to Los Angeles' "Top Ten Traffic Busters," a series of high-priority projects identified by Mobility 21 at last year's summit as crucial to alleviating the region's traffic congestion.

The traffic-busting projects include the expansion of light rail lines, addition of carpool lanes, improvement to streets and highways, as well as improvements to key corridors to facilitate the movement of goods.

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

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Go Bruins! Deputy CEO John Catoe and Metro Commute Services Director David Sutton, alongside UCLA Transportation Services Director Renee Fortier and UCLA Asst. Vice-chancellor Jack Powazek, welcome UCLA Bruins on board the Go Metro Transit Pass Program.



Photos by Juan Ocampo

UCLA "Goes Metro" with Metro Discounted Transit Pass Program

- First Major University in L.A. County to offer program.

By DAVE SOTERO

(Oct 6, 2005) Metro and UCLA Transportation Services today announced a partnership to offer discounted transit passes to UCLA students, staff and faculty, making it the first major university campus to offer such a program in Los Angeles County.

The Go Metro Transit Pass Program will provide UCLA transit riders unlimited travel throughout the academic year on board all Metro Bus and Metro Rail lines at half the cost for full fare riders.

"The Go Metro Transit Pass Program gives UCLA riders the convenience of an unlimited Metro Bus and Metro Rail pass at significantly reduced fares," said John Catoe, Deputy CEO of Metro. "Institutions of higher learning throughout L.A. County can work with Metro to get this pass program implemented at their schools to help reduce the stress or added expense of driving."

Promotes transit use

Metro offers its Institutional Pass Program to large organizations such as

colleges, universities and trade schools in efforts to promote transit use among large businesses, institutions and major organizations.

The program enables institutions to negotiate fare media arrangements and additional services with Metro. To date, community colleges such as Los Angeles City College and Pierce College have participated in the program.

At \$45.50 for students and \$78 for staff and faculty for the Fall 2005 quarter (\$42 and \$72, respectively, in subsequent quarters), the passes are an economical choice for students, staff and faculty seeking relief from the current high costs of commuting to and from campus.



UCLA's rideshare programs help mitigate the impacts of traveling to the school by more than 35,000 daily students.

Wealth of rideshare programs

UCLA Transportation Services, which provides a wide variety of cost-effective transportation programs and services for the campus and adjacent properties, will pay 50 percent of the costs on behalf of riders.

The university has a wealth of award-winning rideshare programs that help mitigate the impacts of traveling to the school by more than 35,000 daily students. The university's employee vanpool program, for example, is one of the largest in L.A. County.

Metro Buses make nearly 1,200 trips to UCLA or Westwood daily. Riders may board from more than 15 stops in the area.



Joe Bruin, mascot and transit rider, shows off his new Metro transit pass on board a Metro Rapid bus.

Rideshare Week success story

The program was announced during During Rideshare Week (Oct. 3-7), when Metro challenges commuters and others to share a ride and save money on gas while easing traffic and air pollution.

Metro Commute Services offers an array of other rideshare programs, including a service that matches commuters with carpool partners and vanpools. Incentives such as Starbucks gift cards are offered for trying these rideshare options.

"Participation in Metro Rideshare programs grows every year," said Metro Commute Services Director David Sutton.

More than 1,000 worksites with 250 or more employees participate in Metro Commute Service programs, representing a 68 percent increase within the last three years. An additional 1,200 businesses with less than 250 employees also participate in these programs.

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Metro Controller Josie V. Nicasio, foreground, joins in the winner's circle of accounting department managers and staff, who earned the prestigious CAFR Award for the sixth straight year. From left, accounting Rene Decena, Lourdes Pecho, Allen Yeh, Juliet Glindro, Jesse Soto, Marcelo Reyes, Rosalina Semana, David Wakeling, Cynthia Jimerson, Harvey Saulter, Nhungt (Natalie) Hoang, Martha Mengistu, Perry Blake, Noemi Pronuevo, Anita Chua, Manuel Villalobos, Alex Perez, Benny Lorenzo, Corazon Uy, Tom Formoso, Silverio De Guzman, Ofelia Cabrera, Danilo Santos, Carmelene Simmons, Rene Feria, and Peter Serrano.



Photo: Gayle Anderson

Accounting Department Lands Sixth CAFR Award

- Award gives national honors to accounting team for excellence in financial reporting.

By PERRY BLAKE

(Oct. 7, 2005) For the sixth year in a row, Metro's Finance Team has been honored with the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The award represents the highest recognition available for state and local governments who prepare a comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR), and is awarded annually by the Government Finance Officers Association based in Chicago.

"The award involves satisfying a rigorous set of reporting requirements, and Metro's Accounting Department has done a good job of pulling together in order to get the job done, " said team leader and Metro Controller Josie Nicasio. "It's a job well done."

"Accounting department managers and staff have already begun to work enthusiastically on next year's CAFR," she said, noting the department's goal of securing award number seven.

[<home](#)

Metro Orange Line

COUNTDOWN

Metro Orange Line
COUNTDOWN

Photos by Ned Racine
10/7/2005
Photos taken along the route
of the Metro Orange Line track
the progress of the
construction of the transitway
in the San Fernando Valley.



9/7/2005- Bike
locker at Reseda
Station



9/7/2005- Bike
locker at
Reseda Station



9/7/2005-
Bike locker
at Reseda
Station



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/
Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Carpool Guys: KTLA/WB news reporter Bill Smith, Metro Commute Services Director David Sutton and actor/producer Corbin Bernsen.



Actor Corbin Bernsen Stars in Joint Promotion with Metro

- News event, radio spot promote ridesharing, 'Carpool Guy' movie

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 11, 2005) Almost a year ago, the actor Corbin Bernsen approached Metro seeking cooperation on a movie project he called "Carpool Guy."

Bernsen – who has starred on TV in "LA Law," "The Young and the Restless," and "General Hospital" – wanted background information about carpooling and offered to help Metro promote ridesharing when the film, a comedy, was released.

The movie premieres, tonight, at the Arclight Theater in Hollywood and its stars begin a 12-city tour, Oct. 23. It is available on DVD at Amazon.com and on its own website at [carpoolguy.com](#).

Now, making good on his promise to Metro, Bernsen provided live TV remotes while riding in a carpool lane during Monday's KTLA Morning News. He also has recorded a 60-second radio commercial about Metro's carpool program. The spot will be aired on 11 radio stations in the LA market beginning Oct. 17.

The film is about a guy whose "whole life turns around because he starts carpooling," Bernsen says in the commercial. "And he comes up with a pretty funny way to get moving again."

Pitch for carpooling

By calling 1-800-COMMUTE, he advises, Metro will help listeners find a carpool partner. "If you want to see your whole life turn around because you started carpooling, call Metro today...."

"We're delighted Mr. Bernson agreed to provide us with so much support and was so generous with his time," said Warren Morse, deputy executive officer, Communications. "The film calls attention to the benefits of carpooling, so this is a great tie-in for Metro."

In addition to Bernsen, "Carpool Guy" stars Anthony Geary, who plays Luke on "General Hospital." In the movie, Geary is cast as an ambitious young advertising executive who moves to the LA suburbs with his wife, only to face the horrors of a long, daily commute.

Also appearing in the film is Jeanne Cooper, who has played Katherine Chancellor on "The Young and the Restless" since 1973 – and is Bernsen's mother.

Other stars are Rick Hurst, who played a continuing character in the "Dukes of Hazzard" TV series and film; Lauralee Bell, an award-winning actress on "The Young and the Restless"; and Sean Kanan, who had continuing roles on "The Bold and the Beautiful" and "General Hospital."


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom \(web\)](#)
[Ask the CEO](#)
[CEO Forum](#)
[Employee Recognition](#)
[Employee Activities](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)
[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/Library](#)
[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)
[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Metro Releases Final Environmental Report on Expo Line

By RICK JAGER

(Oct. 11, 2005) Metro released the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report (FEIS/FEIR) on the proposed Exposition Light Rail Transit Project, Tuesday, for a 45-day public circulation period.

Following the public review period, which ends Nov. 28, the Board is expected to certify the FEIS/FEIR in early December. After the Board's action, the Federal Transit Administration is expected to issue a Record of Decision (ROD), including environmental clearance.

FTA environmental clearance will enable the Exposition Construction Authority to award a contract for design and construction of the project, beginning in early 2006.

The Exposition Line will operate from downtown Los Angeles to Culver City. Because the \$640 million project will use local funding instead of federal New Starts funding, it can be built on an accelerated schedule for a June, 2010 completion.

'A major milestone'

"This is a major milestone as we move closer towards actual construction of this vital transportation project," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "The Exposition Line continues the expansion of the county's rail transit system and will provide a viable alternative to driving."

The Exposition Line will be approximately 9 miles long and will share common track and two stations (7th and Metro and Pico/Chick Hearn) with the Metro Blue Line as it leaves downtown Los Angeles.

Just south of downtown, the line will proceed west on the Metro-owned right-of-way on Exposition Boulevard, which parallels the heavily congested I-10 Freeway, with a terminus at Venice and Robertson.

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

The FEIS/FEIR will be available at community libraries located along the Exposition Line or on the web at www.metro.net.

Community open houses

Metro is planning to conduct three community open houses in November to review details of the project and receive comments on the FEIS/FEIR.

The meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, Nov. 2 (5 - 8 p.m.), at Veterans Memorial Auditorium , 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City.
- Thursday, Nov. 3 (5 - 8 p.m.), at West Los Angeles Church, 3045 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles.
- Wednesday, Nov. 9 (5 - 8 p.m.), at the Exposition Park Muses Room in the Wallis Annenberg Building, 700 State Drive, Los Angeles.

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Metro Security Officer Gustavo Lozano and Napoleon. Photo by Perry Williams.



'Napoleon' Joins the Metro Security Force

By PERRY WILLIAMS

(Oct. 11, 2005) A new employee can be seen walking around at Metro, but the difference is this new addition to Metro has four legs.

Napoleon, a black Labrador retriever, was "hired" three months ago to serve as an "alert" to any type of explosives in the vicinity of Metro-operated lines. Walking through facilities with Metro Security Officer Gustavo Lozano, Napoleon can be seen carrying out his daily responsibilities.

A graduate of Masters Canine School, Napoleon has been trained since birth to specialize in detecting bombs and explosives.

About his new partner, Lozano says, "Security is changing and we are becoming more aware of terrorist tactics and preparing ourselves for anything that comes our way."

The majority of Napoleon's work will be patrolling through bus and rail lines, staying alert to anything remotely close to an explosive.

"His home base is Gateway, but Napoleon is educated and anything transit-related with an M on it, he takes care of," says Lozano.

Dedicated to Metro

Solely dedicated to Metro, Napoleon has been welcomed into his new family through many gestures ranging from smiles to rubs. Public affection doesn't prevent the new "employee" from handling assigned tasks.

At 2 years old, Napoleon is still a puppy, but with his formal training he's focused on doing his required job.

"We've already been visiting and doing rounds and Napoleon has been so eager I have to tell him to calm down," chuckled Lozano.

Whether walking Union Station or riding the Metro Red Line, Napoleon is carrying out the skills he learned through rigorous training.

Lozano welcomes employees who stop and say a few words, but he says people must remember, "Napoleon is not a pet, he's a working dog."

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

▶ [Safety](#)

▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)

▶ [Ask the CEO](#)

▶ [CEO Forum](#)

▶ [Employee Recognition](#)

▶ [Employee Activities](#)

▶ [Metro Projects](#)

▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

▶ [Archives](#)

▶ [Events Calendar](#)

▶ [Research Center/Library](#)

▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)

▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)

▶ [Policies](#)

▶ [Training](#)

▶ [Help Desk](#)

▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Venice Division 6 operators hoist a banner proclaiming 365 injury-free days.



Photos courtesy of Alva Carrasco.

One Year and Counting: Division 6 Marks 365 Injury-Free Days

- 25 employees honored for outstanding safety records
[See who!](#)

Lunch Bunch



Rich Long, Sandra Kelley-Williams and Bridgette Robinson.

By ARLENE LIM

(Oct. 12, 2005) Venice Division 6 recently celebrated completing 365 days without a single CAL OSHA recordable incident.

Gail Ligon, who's been a steno at Division 6 for about five years, cannot recall a time since she has worked there when the division has accomplished that many days without a lost-time injury.

Division employees marked the occasion with a BBQ extravaganza feast that included ribs, links, and chicken and all the fixin's – all prepared by Operators Shenita Coleman and Terry Martin and their committee.

While Coleman and Martin satisfied everyone's taste buds, Operator Tyron Gunn kept the party going with his DJ



Operators Robert Farias and David Stidhum.

skills and filled the air with music.

And what’s a party without a raffle? Throughout the day, safety goodies like flashlights, bags and mugs were raffled.

Division 6 employees weren’t the only ones in attendance, Division 7 and 10 managers and members of the Westside Sector staff came to show their support.



George Lau



Montae Johnson

General Manager David Armijo and Division 6 managers presented certificates to 25 employees who had outstanding safety records – those who had at least five years without a chargeable incident and those who had no incidents at all in a year.

MAINTENANCE
Zero Injury Claims
30 Years

- George Lau

20 Years

- Darryl Henderson

15+ Years

- Glenn Suhd

5+ Years

- Donald Cook
- Manuel Lopez

TRANSPORTATION
Zero Accidents and Zero Injuries in One Year

- Luis Estrada Cruz
- Mildred Fall
- Evan Hale
- Robert Johnson
- Dawn Williams

Five Years Without a Chargeable Accident

- Melvin Braxton
- Shenita Coleman
- Christina Contreras
- Luis Estrada Cruz
- Michael Davis
- Evan Hale

Cassandra Webb

- Samson Gessesse
- Mildred Fall
- Montae Johnson
- Robert Johnson
- Christopher Jones
- Javier Lopez
- Armando Peralta
- Carlton Robertson
- Benjamin Zisner

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

Resources

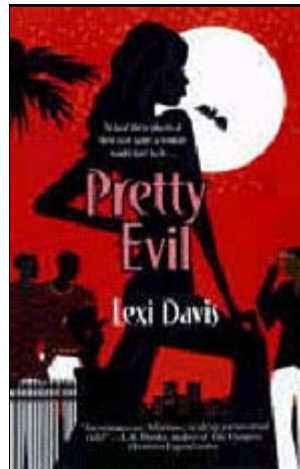
[Safety](#)[Pressroom \(web\)](#)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

'Pretty Evil,' by Lexi Davis, at left, is a supernatural thriller set in LA.



Division 7 Mechanic's Wife Publishes First Novel

By JIM PACHAN

(Oct. 12, 2005) A new novel written by the wife of West Hollywood Division 7 Mechanic Trainee Lawrence Kimp hit the bookshelves this week.



Lawrence Kimp

"Pretty Evil" is the first novel published by Kimp's wife, whose pen name is Lexi Davis. A graduate of UCLA with a degree in English, she also earned a certificate in screenwriting.

"The novel is a 'good vs. evil' story set in modern society," says Kimp, a 16-year Metro veteran who, until recently, worked at West Valley Division 8.

The novel traces what happens when three high-living "playas" run afoul of a super bad, super sexy, supernatural "diva."

Much of the action takes place in an abandoned property just a stone's throw away from Rodeo Drive. The dilapidated wreck is more haunted house than Hollywood highlife.

A supernatural vixen

The friends believe the house would be a great financial investment, but it turns out the place is already occupied by a supernatural vixen who resents the intruders and vows to use her shape-shifting powers to dispatch them.

Only the men's best friend, Sunnie, who is armed with an extraordinary gift and some very powerful prayers, can take on the devilish demon – even if she has to pay the ultimate price.

"Pretty Evil" was the first of a two-book deal with publisher Pocket Books, a division of Simon and Schuster. It is on sale at major

bookstores and is available on Davis' website at LexiDavis.com.

Davis has scheduled book-signing events from 2 – 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15, at Dark Delicacies Bookstore, 4213 West Burbank Blvd., Burbank; and from 2 – 4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 5, at the County Library, 601 West Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster. Future book signings will be posted on Davis' web site.

Kimp and Davis live in the Antelope Valley with their 13-year-old daughter, Treasure. Now a full-time writer, Davis is close to completing her second novel, also a tale of the paranormal.

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/
Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Gill Hicks, chairman of the California Marine Intermodal and Transportation Systems Advisory Council, testifies before a special hearing of the Assembly Transportation Committee.



Photo by Bill Heard

Hearing Explores Link Between Cancer and Goods Movement

(Oct. 12, 2005) Assemblymember Jenny Oropeza (D-Carson) conducted a special public hearing in the Board room, Wednesday, to explore the link between cancer rates and the movement of goods by trucks, trains and ships in the Los Angeles area.

Oropeza, a cancer survivor, invited policy, business, consumer, environmental and transportation experts to testify at the Assembly Transportation Committee hearing. Also participating in the hearing were Assemblymembers Betty Karnette (D-Long Beach) and Carol Liu (D-La Canada Flintridge).

The hearing comes less than a week after the California Air Resources Board released a study showing that diesel fumes are increasing the risk of cancer.

Oropeza is a former member of Metro's Board of Directors.



- [Metro.net \(web\)](#)
- Resources**
- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom \(web\)](#)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

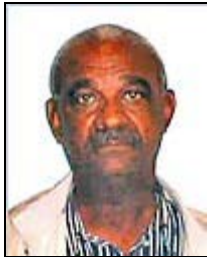
- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Funeral Services Set for Division 5 TOS William Warren



William Warren

(Oct. 13, 2005) Funeral services have been scheduled for Transportation Operations Supervisor William Warren, who was killed, Oct. 10, in an automobile accident.

Warren, 68, was driving to his home in Palmdale following an overnight shift when the accident occurred.

A viewing is scheduled from 4 – 8 p.m., Friday, at Joshua Memorial Park, 808 East Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster. Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, at the same location.

Warren, a native of Ft. Benning, Ga., retired from Division 15 after 30 years' service, but later was rehired as a transportation operations supervisor.

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[▶ Safety](#)[▶ Pressroom](#) (web)[▶ Ask the CEO](#)[▶ CEO Forum](#)[▶ Employee Recognition](#)[▶ Employee Activities](#)[▶ Metro Projects](#)[▶ Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[▶ Archives](#)[▶ Events Calendar](#)[▶ Research Center/ Library](#)[▶ Metro Classifieds](#)[▶ Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[▶ 30/10 Initiative](#)[▶ Policies](#)[▶ Training](#)[▶ Help Desk](#)[▶ Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Metro Liner sizes up the Metro Orange Line North Hollywood Station on test run.



Photo by Gary Leonard

Metro Liners Roll Out, Sunday, for Orange Line Pre-Revenue Service

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 13, 2005) At precisely 3:40 a.m. this coming Sunday, the first Metro Liner will roll, eastbound, out of Warner Center and into pre-revenue service on the Metro Orange Line.

At 4:43 a.m., the first westbound Metro Liner will leave the North Hollywood station. Thereafter, the 60-foot articulated coaches will crisscross the San Fernando Valley on a minute-by-minute schedule mirroring the daily commuter service.

The pre-revenue headways will be timed to match the arrival and departure of Metro Red Line trains at the North Hollywood Station, according to San Fernando Valley General Manager Richard Hunt.

"Mike Brewer and his staff have done an excellent job designing and coordinating the schedule so it will be in sync with the train schedule," he says.

Thirty-five operators – some from outside the Valley – have successfully bid for the right to drive the 14-mile Metro Orange Line, which opens to the public on Saturday, Oct. 29.

They'll be led by a senior male operator, 32-year veteran Robert Higbee, and a senior female operator, Bettye Edwards-Hall, a 23-year veteran. Orange Line service will operate out of West Valley Division 8, which also will maintain the 30 Metro Liners.

‘Ready to go!’

“We’re excited. We’re ready to go!” says Division 8 Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds. “It’s a new line and brings new life to the division.”

“Everything will be up and running opening day,” says Pat Orr, Division 8 maintenance manager. Fifteen red and silver artics will be on standby to augment the 30 silver Metro Liners, if needed, to handle passenger overflow on the opening weekend.

He notes that all Division 8 mechanics and service attendants will have received both Metro Liner technical and driver training by the time pre-revenue service begins.

Mechanics have driven the entire alignment to familiarize themselves with the transitway, including entrances and exits for repair vehicles and tow trucks.

“Everyone in the sector is excited to see the Orange Line open and the public’s reaction to it,” says Hunt. “It’s an opportunity for Metro to take a huge step forward.”

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



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Former Metro Bus Operator to Face Insurance Fraud Charges

By PAM MURANO

(Oct. 14, 2005) A former Metro Bus operator will appear in Los Angeles Superior Court, today, to face six counts of felony insurance fraud and two counts of attempted felony perjury.

Renee Henderson was arrested, Oct. 12, by members of the state Department of Insurance fraud unit following an extensive investigation conducted by the Metro Special Investigations Unit. She was booked into LA County Jail and held on \$130,000 bail.

Henderson, who was fired from her job at West Hollywood Division 7 in March 2003, allegedly had been working at another company while claiming to be temporarily disabled and unable to work. She continued to collect Workers' Compensation benefits during that time and allegedly did not report any earnings to Metro, as required by law.

In addition to the two perjury counts, Henderson was charged with three counts of felony insurance fraud and three counts of insurance fraud under the California Penal Code for concealing, or knowingly failing to disclose an event that affects a person's entitlement to any insurance benefit or payment, or the amount of any benefit to which the person is entitled.



- Metro.net (web)
- Resources
- [Safety](#)
- [Pressroom](#) (web)
- [Ask the CEO](#)
- [CEO Forum](#)
- [Employee Recognition](#)
- [Employee Activities](#)
- [Metro Projects](#)
- [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- [Archives](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Research Center/Library](#)
- [Metro Classifieds](#)
- [Bazaar](#)

- Metro Info
- [30/10 Initiative](#)
- [Policies](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Help Desk](#)
- [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Bus, Rail Boardings Increase 6.85% over September, 2004

(Oct. 14, 2005) Metro Bus and Metro Rail ridership in September declined somewhat from August boardings, but overall, ridership was up 6.85 percent over September, 2004.

Metro recorded 38.6 million systemwide boardings in September, versus 36.15 million a year ago.

The statistics show 32.15 million boardings on directly-operated Metro Buses in September and 6.5 million Metro Rail boardings.

The systemwide September boardings were 6.4 percent higher than Metro had anticipated.

From August to September, 2005, bus boardings were down 1.1 percent and rail boardings dropped 5.9 percent.

Despite the month-to-month decline, however, Metro Bus boardings still were 6.3 percent higher than expected, while Metro Rail boardings were up 6.6 percent over anticipated levels.

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Nearly 100 representatives of small business representatives attend Transportation Business Advisory Council meeting to hear Deputy CEO John Catoe report on contracting opportunities at Metro.



PHOTOS: GAYLE ANDERSON

Small Businesses Seek Opportunities to 'Do Business with Metro.'

- The Transportation Business Advisory Council (TBAC) is a group of business organizations that advocate on behalf of greater participation of small business in the Metro contract process.

By GAYLE ANDERSON
(Oct. 14, 2005) Metro awarded \$40.3 million in contracts to disadvantaged business enterprises during FY04. "That's good, but not good enough," said Deputy CEO John Catoe at the regular meeting of the Transportation Business Advisory Council (TBAC).

Hosted by Metro's Small Business Diversity and Economic Diversity Department on Oct. 6, nearly 100 representatives of small business attended the TBAC meeting to hear Catoe's remarks on Metro's support for contracting opportunities for small businesses.



Deputy CEO John Catoe reviews contracting opportunities at Metro for small business firms at TBAC meeting.

Catoe said that Metro has taken steps to remove barriers to participation in the contracting process that are a disadvantage to small firms.

For example, an insurance program gives small and disadvantaged businesses the opportunity to purchase the required insurance coverage at a reduced rate.

Another innovative policy requires prompt payment of invoices from contractors within 30 days of receipt.

"Metro is committed to doing a great job," said Catoe. "And, we want our vendors, big and small, to do the same."

Metro offers services to assist small business owners interested in doing business with the agency: Certification, which increases opportunities by teaming up contractors; workshops on proposals and certification, and CEO Roger Snoble's initiative "Shared Responsibility Program" that raises the bar towards achieving participation goals of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise.

"TBAC's strong network is providing a contracting 'safety net' that increases opportunities for certified small businesses to secure contracts at Metro and other public contracting agencies," said Deputy Executive Officer Linda Wright.

Dedicated to strengthening the network of small business organizations who track contracting opportunities at Metro and other public agencies, TBAC represents a powerhouse of diversity in the small business community.

Currently, 13 organizations, including the American Indian



TBAC Chairman Robert Weir, at left, listens as Johnathon Hou gives report on professional services.



Ezekiel Patten Jr. reports on activities of the Commodities Committee. Below, Vice-chairwoman Barbara Sullivan, a representative of the National Association of Women Business Owners, briefs TBAC increasing membership.



Kellie Irving, at podium, gives results of participation survey conducted by Metro's Small

Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, Black Business Association, Filipino American Society of Architects and Engineers, Latin Business Association and the National Association of Women Business Owners, head a large membership of small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Business Diversity and Economic Diversity Department. At right, Norfina Joves, Contract Compliance, stands by to take questions from the audience.

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


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

Resources

[▶ Safety](#)
[▶ Pressroom \(web\)](#)
[▶ Ask the CEO](#)
[▶ CEO Forum](#)
[▶ Employee Recognition](#)
[▶ Employee Activities](#)
[▶ Metro Projects](#)
[▶ Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)
[▶ Archives](#)
[▶ Events Calendar](#)
[▶ Research Center/Library](#)
[▶ Metro Classifieds](#)
[▶ Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[▶ 30/10 Initiative](#)
[▶ Policies](#)
[▶ Training](#)
[▶ Help Desk](#)
[▶ Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Mayor Villaraigosa Announces Wilshire Subway Tunnel Panel

- Panel will convene Oct. 24-27; a report is due in November

(Oct. 14, 2005) Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced, Friday, that an independent peer review panel has been formed to investigate the feasibility of subway tunneling under Wilshire Boulevard west of Western Avenue.

"Wilshire Boulevard is the densest corridor and the most heavily traveled bus route in Los Angeles," said Villaraigosa. "Wilshire Boulevard is the most logical choice for mass transit investments and this panel will help to determine if further subway tunneling is a safe alternative."

Villaraigosa called for the panel in July and worked collaboratively with Congressman Henry Waxman, who represents constituents in the Wilshire corridor, to include independent experts.

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) peer review panel will convene in Los Angeles from October 24-27.

The panel is expected to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the City of Los Angeles and Metro in November. The city and Metro are jointly funding the study.

Five-member panel

The panel will consist of five members – three panelists appointed by APTA and two independent experts recommended by the National Academy of Sciences and selected by Waxman.

The panel includes experts in the fields of tunneling, engineering, transit construction, rail operations, and underground safety. The APTA panelists are:

- Henry M. Nutbrown, assistant general manager, Engineering & Construction Division, Port Authority of Allegheny County of Pittsburgh.
- Raymond E. Sandiford, chief geotechnical engineer, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
- Jeffery C. Hewitt, director of major construction projects, Richmond Airport Vancouver Rapid Transit Project

The independent experts are:

- Fred N. Kissel, Fred Kissel Mine Safety Consulting

- John T. Christian, consulting engineer, Prototype Engineering, Inc.

Villaraigosa thanked Councilman Tom LaBonge for his leadership on the issue. LaBonge had proposed working to remove the prohibition on using federal funds for subway tunneling in methane gas risk zones.

"I strongly support the work of this peer review panel as they evaluate the feasibility of tunneling so we can move forward with our transit planning," said LaBonge.

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

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Consultant Jeff Klompus demonstrates how Metro employees will use the TAP validator during testing of the UFS system. Similar TAP equipment is being installed on Metro Buses. The equipment will help track travel patterns, recording the time, location and which bus or rail line an employee boarded.



The screen on the TAP validator signals, "Go," when an employee ID badge touches the circular target.

Metro Employees Encouraged to Help Test TAP Equipment

- Employee ID badge is programmed for TAP use
- Test will provide 'mini sampling' for system managers
- [More on TAP](#) > [UFS Equipment Installations Move TAP into High Gear](#)

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 18, 2005) As the Universal Fare System comes on line, project managers are encouraging Metro employees to use their ID cards to help test the ticket vending machines, TAP fareboxes and validators whenever they ride buses or trains.

"Initially, the employee use of the TAP card will provide a mini-sampling of what we'll do on a grander scale when the

public begins using UFS," says Gateway Cities General Manager Alex Clifford, who is overseeing the project.

Employee ID badges were issued with the dual technology of "Smart Card" and "Prox Card." The Smart Card function works on the UFS system. The Prox Card works on the M3 system and on elevators, stairwells and doors at the Gateway Building.

The UFS equipment will track travel patterns, recording the time, location and which bus or rail line an employee boarded, according to Project Manager Jane Matsumoto. It will show how many employees are riding and where they boarded.

The system will upload that information each day to the central data collection system at Metro Headquarters. Together with ATMS (Advanced Transportation Management System), UFS will enhance the ability to plan Metro service to meet customer travel patterns.

Allow system adjustments

The test period also will allow managers and Revenue Collection personnel to evaluate and adjust the system before public use begins.

Once in full operation, UFS will deduct the correct amount of money from a customer's pre-paid TAP card, whether it is used on a bus or on Metro Rail.

Passenger travel information from the four rail divisions, the Metro Orange Line and the 11 bus divisions, along with the amount of cash collected in Metro Bus fareboxes, will be transmitted to central computers at Metro Headquarters.

Clifford and Matsumoto believe the detailed customer information provided by UFS – from the Metro system and from municipal operators – will be a key element in helping Metro better tailor service to the needs of its customers throughout the region.

"This has the potential to dovetail into Metro Connections in a wonderful way because you can determine where the major boardings are" and where passengers get off the bus, says Clifford. "It will help us better plan our bus routes and show us where our service is most needed."


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[Ask the CEO](#)
[CEO Forum](#)
[Employee Recognition](#)
[Employee Activities](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/Library](#)
[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)
[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

VIEW FROM THE 25th FLOOR

'Bowled Over' by the Metro Orange Line

By CEO ROGER SNOBLE



CEO Roger Snoble

In preparation for the Metro Orange Line opening later this month, I've had several opportunities to ride end-to-end on the alignment.

I couldn't help being impressed by the quality of everything I saw – from the shiny new Metro Liners, to the paved road that gives a smooth, comfortable ride. The attractive landscaping, the bike and pedestrian paths and sound walls bowled me over. We have, indeed, created a vast green belt across the Valley.

For their hard work in constructing this newest addition to Metro's transit toolbox, we owe great thanks to Construction Chief Rick Thorpe, to Project Manager Roger Dames and his team, and to the contractor, Shimmick/Obayashi. They've managed to deliver an outstanding project, despite such setbacks as an unprecedented rainy season, the discovery of contaminated earth and a lawsuit that delayed construction for 23 days.

Now, an enthusiastic group of West Valley Division 8 operators has begun pre-revenue service between Warner Center and North Hollywood. Their maintenance colleagues have worked hard to prepare the Metro Liners for transporting thousands of passengers in daily service.

I want to express appreciation to San Fernando Valley General Manager Richard Hunt and his sector team; Division 15 Transportation Manager Gary Spivack and Maintenance Manager John Roberts, who were deeply involved in preparatory work; Division 8 Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds and Maintenance Manager Pat Orr, and all the members of the teams at both divisions. Well done!

I believe the Metro Orange Line is the perfect solution for the transportation challenge we face in the Valley. In fact, cities across the country are beginning to see bus rapid transit projects like ours as practical alternatives when the volume of ridership may not justify light rail. I expect even more interest from transit agencies around the world following opening day, Oct. 29.

On the threshold of Orange Line operation, it's also remarkable that we have two other significant projects in the works.

I toured the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension construction site, recently, and was struck by the immense size of the project and the machinery that soon will be installed to excavate the 1.7-mile tunnel in East LA. When opened in 2009, this railway will be great benefit to an underserved transit corridor.

And I was pleased to see that the construction team had worked for almost 450 days – more than a half-million manhours – with no lost-time injuries.

We're also making progress on the Exposition Line with the release, last week, of the environmental documents. Next steps are public hearings in November and approval in December by our Board, before design of the project moves into high gear.

We have exciting days ahead of us the remainder of this year. And more exciting times yet to come.

October 18, 2005

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

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

UFS Project Manager Jane Matsumoto shows how customers will use a TAP Smart Card to purchase Metro passes, transfers or new Smart Cards once the UFS system is in service.



Photos by Bill Heard

UFS Equipment Installations Move TAP into High Gear

- TAP fareboxes, TVMs and validators ready by spring 2006
- Muni buses to have TAP equipment by June 2007
- Plus! [Metro Employees Encouraged to Help Test TAP Equipment](#)

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 18, 2005) Metro's Universal Fare System project has moved into high gear with new TAP ticket vending machines, validators and fareboxes all scheduled to be installed throughout the system by next spring.

And, by the end of June 2007, TAP equipment should be ready for operation on most municipal transit buses – providing seamless travel throughout the region for LA County commuters.

Customers will flick the validator with their TAP cards to enter the Metro Rail system or a Metro Bus. The validator electronically extracts from the TAP card the amount of money required for



the ride.

"Customers can use one card to travel on all Metro Bus and Rail lines and on muni service," says Gateway Cities General Manager Alex Clifford, who is overseeing the project. "For Metro, the ability to gather data on trip patterns will help us better plan efficient service and become even more responsive to our customers' needs."

Work crews from UFS contractor Cubic, supervised by Metro Quality Assurance, New Technology and Revenue Collection personnel, already have installed TAP fareboxes on buses at divisions 9, 8 and 15 and are currently working at Division 1.

Spring 2006 completion

Fleet installations at all 11 Metro Bus divisions should be completed by spring 2006, according to Project Manager Jane Matsumoto.

Other Cubic crews have installed new TVMs at Union Station and 7th and Metro, and have drilled holes in the mezzanine floors for installation of TAP validators. Equipment installation for the entire Metro Red Line also should be completed by next spring.

Starting at 7th and Metro and at the Long Beach Transit Mall later this month, crews will begin installing new TVMs and TAP validators on the Metro Blue Line, work that should be completed in December. The Metro Green Line project is set to begin in November and completed in early January.

On the Metro Gold Line, TVMs have been in use since last June for cash transactions and for TAP use with Metro employee ID badges. TAP validators have been installed and will be enabled when installation of all UFS equipment on other Metro Rail lines has been completed.

"We're really cooking on rail," says Matsumoto, "and you'll soon start to see more buses with UFS fareboxes."

On the Metro Orange Line, set to open to the public Oct. 29, UFS equipment already has been installed at all 13 stations on the transitway.

Guests attending the official Orange Line ceremonies, Oct. 28, will receive commemorative TAP cards for use on opening day.



Metro.net (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)

[Pressroom](#) (web)

[Ask the CEO](#)

[CEO Forum](#)

[Employee Recognition](#)

[Employee Activities](#)

[Metro Projects](#)

[Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

[Archives](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Research Center/Library](#)

[Metro Classifieds](#)

[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)

[Policies](#)

[Training](#)

[Help Desk](#)

[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Events Scheduled at 5 Stations During Orange Line Opening

- Festivities planned for Oct. 29, free rides all weekend

By DAVE SOTERO

(Oct. 19, 2005) Metro is planning community events at five Orange Line stations on Saturday, Oct. 29, to celebrate the public opening of the San Fernando Valley transitway.

No events are planned for Sunday, Oct. 30, but the public is invited for free rides on the 60-foot Metro Liners all weekend. Buses will run Saturday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 5 a.m. to midnight.

The community celebrations are scheduled between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the five stations.

North Hollywood Station

Community festivities at the Metro Red Line park & ride lot on Lankershim Boulevard will include live jazz, blues and rock & roll music, comedy, a dance troupe, community booths and food vendors.

Van Nuys Station

The event, to be held in the park & ride lot at the corner of Van Nuys and Aetna Street, will include a mariachi band, Grant High School bands, bicycle safety checks, drawings and booths.

Balboa Station

Attendees can learn about exciting summer programs for the whole family, enjoy an elementary school choral performance, giveaways and more. The station's park & ride lot is at the corner of Victory and Balboa in Encino.

De Soto Station

The event is set for the Pierce College Campus at the corner of DeSoto and Victory in Woodland Hills. The college will hold its annual "Halloween Harvest Festival" from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Festivities will include a pumpkin patch, corn mazes, a haunted house and maze.

Warner Center Station

Set in the Westfield Mall parking lot at the corner of Erwin and Owensmouth (behind Macy's), the festivities will include the El Camino marching band, the Carter Burgess Halloween Costume Parade, a live remote broadcast by KOST-103.5 FM, Chivas USA Soccer Team autographs, demonstrations and live music.

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Student examines Metro Orange Line brochure at safety presentation conducted at Thoreau High School in Woodland Hills.



Metro, LAUSD Taking Orange Line Safety Program to Schools

- Showing kids and parents how to stay safe near transitway

By DAVE SOTERO

(Oct. 19, 2005) Metro and the Los Angeles Unified School District have partnered to deliver safety presentations to more than 100 schools within a 1.5-mile radius of the Metro Orange Line, bringing the agency's "Safety 1st" message to thousands of Valley school students, teachers and parents.

The safety program, which includes an animated video presentation, drives home the importance of obeying all signs, signals and street striping on the transitway, scheduled to open to the public, Oct. 29.

Since the program began in September, Metro has conducted 33 safety presentations, with an additional 28 scheduled by the transitway opening date.

Forty-one additional schools will be given safety presentations following the opening. Of these 102 schools, 80 are elementary schools, 11 are middle schools and 15 are high schools.

LAUSD assisted Metro in identifying and contacting the schools and has



Carlos Valdez, Community Relations Officer, presents safety video to Thoreau High School students.

sent Metro safety information to school administrators.

Encouraging school participation

"We are encouraging as many area schools as possible to take advantage of these excellent Metro safety presentations," said Tana Ball of LAUSD's Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, whose district includes portions of the San Fernando Valley, applauded the agencies "for working together to help keep our school children safe."

Metro has adapted its popular, nationally recognized Rail Safety Training Program expressly for the Metro Orange Line. A 20-minute presentation given by Metro safety representatives provides school children with an overview of the transitway and station intersections.

"We created our own safety outreach program from scratch, and it is now considered a benchmark for school-age safety training across the country," said Lynda Bybee, Deputy Executive Officer of Metro Community Relations.


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom \(web\)](#)
[Ask the CEO](#)
[CEO Forum](#)
[Employee Recognition](#)
[Employee Activities](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)
[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/Library](#)
[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)
[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

12 Selected as Employees of the Quarter for 4th Quarter

- Read more about the [Employees of the Quarter](#)

(Oct. 20, 2005) Twelve employees, whose work exemplifies four of the seven core Metro values, have been selected as Employees of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of FY 2005.

The employees are being honored in the categories of employees, customer satisfaction, innovation and teamwork. The other three categories are fiscal responsibility, integrity and safety.

Employees Category

Dung Ly, a mechanic "A" relief leader at Division 1, is considered a terrific role model by his fellow employees. He takes the initiative to perform the duties of the equipment records specialist when the ERS is absent, and trains and assists new and experienced mechanics in performing their job duties in a safe and timely manner.

Customer Satisfaction

Metro Rail Operator Ruben "Running Wolf" Hernandez makes trips on the Metro Gold Line especially memorable and satisfying, producing exceptionally satisfied customers. He likes to engage younger passengers face-to-face, making safety presentations and distributing pop-up trains to children on his own time.

Innovation

Transportation Planning Manager Lynne Goldsmith heads the Metro Bike Program and is responsible for helping manage bikeway grants to local cities. She developed the concept for bike stations at 12 regional transit centers. Another project helped meet the needs of low-income commuter bicyclists. Both programs were recognized by the American Planning Association last June.

Teamwork

A nine-member team from Human Resources and ITS worked closely over the past year and a half to develop and implement the new Oracle HR computer system which went online in May. Often working through lunch and after hours, they solved problems that allowed testing to proceed within a compressed schedule.

How to Nominate an Employee of the Quarter

The Employee of the Quarter program is administered by the Communication Services Department, which is now accepting nominations for the first quarter of FY 2006. The deadline is Oct 28.

The [nomination form](#) is located on the Employee Recognition web page under "Employee of the Quarter" link. Once the form is completed by the person making the nomination, it must be approved by the department head and the executive officer, then forwarded to Jennifer Salamanca at Mail Stop 99-19-3.

Final selection of the Employee of the Quarter winners will be made by the Employee of the Quarter selection committee, whose members are appointed by business unit executive officers for a period of one fiscal year. Questions about the program should be directed to Salamanca at 922-2263.

Recognized for their technical expertise, effective planning, decision-making, attention to detail and perseverance were Vazgen Vartanian, Matt Varughese, Anait Cherchian, Philip Aung, Norm Haddock, Jerry Lindsey, Gwen Keene, Bruce Moore and Forrest Miller.

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



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)

[Pressroom](#) (web)

[Ask the CEO](#)

[CEO Forum](#)

[Employee Recognition](#)

[Employee Activities](#)

[Metro Projects](#)

[Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

[Archives](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Research Center/Library](#)

[Metro Classifieds](#)

[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)

[Policies](#)

[Training](#)

[Help Desk](#)

[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

City Attorney Charges Metro with Violating State Water Code

- Metro reported discharges as required, Catoe says
- Agency took steps to prevent future overflows

(Oct. 20, 2005) The Los Angeles City Attorney filed criminal charges against Metro, Tuesday, alleging nine violations of the state water code, but Deputy CEO John Catoe says the agency promptly reported the violations to water quality officials and has corrected the problem.

The charges apparently stem from underground water overflows at the Vermont/Beverly Metro Rail station on 12 occasions from December 2001 to January 2005. According to the City Attorney, the overflows carried “unpermitted discharges of chromium VI, zinc, copper and selenium....”

“We’re surprised the City Attorney would bring these charges. We were not purposely dumping anything,” Catoe said. “We look forward to working with the City Attorney’s office.”

Metro holds permits from the Regional Water Quality Control Board that allow the agency to discharge water from subway tunnels into the sewage system for processing at a treatment plant.

Normally, the groundwater seeping from the subway tunnel at Vermont/Beverly is collected in a catch basin prior to discharge. During periods of heavy rainfall, however, water was discharged directly into the storm drainage system, which empties into Ballona Creek and flows from there to the ocean.

Routine monitoring, reports

Metro routinely monitors some 25 “outfall” locations on the subway line and reports any overflows as required by the Water Quality Control Board, according to agency environmental specialists. Each report of an overflow into the storm drains includes an analysis of the water discharged.

During the period cited by the City Attorney, Metro worked to pinpoint the problem at the Vermont/Beverly station and during last winter’s rains, was able to take measures to prevent further overflows, including raising the pump-out threshold on the holding tank.

There have been no further discharges at the station since Jan. 27.

Each violation of the state water code could carry a penalty ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Arraignment on the charges is scheduled, Dec. 16, in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The charges against Metro are believed to be the first case in California in which a city has brought criminal charges against a county

agency for alleged illegal discharge of pollutants.

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

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom \(web\)](#)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Jake's Adventures

(Oct. 21, 2005) Jake's cat, Polly, has been at the center of several adventures – scrapes that usually ended badly or at least expensively for our correspondent. In this episode, he finds the cat transfixed by a visitor from the wilds. -- *Bill Heard, Editor*

'Wiley Coyote' Gets a Tongue-Lashing from Animal Control Officer Bob

By JAKE SATIN-JACOBS

Our cat, Polly, has never missed a meal in her life. The minute my feet touch the floor in the morning, her breakfast bell begins to ring. In the afternoon, when I return from work, she is always sitting by the door, salivating.

So, you can imagine my confusion when I entered the house one day and Polly was not in her designated place yowling for chow. I'm not really sure what she does when I'm gone, but I thought she might have gotten smacked on catnip and nodded off or gotten involved in the destruction of some furniture and lost track of the time. It could happen.

And so, I called her name several times, but no answer and no Polly.

I couldn't imagine that she had gone outside. I've only seen her leave the house a couple of times since a coyote grabbed her off the porch and carried her across the canyon last year. I was sure she was in the house, but I began to think something horrible had happened.

Perhaps she had remained too long in her automatic litter box and the rake apparatus had crushed her or she'd become disoriented chasing a paper clip across the living room floor and run into a wall and knocked herself unconscious. It was odd that Polly was not there and whining – and I was uneasy.

Staring into space

I went downstairs thinking that, if she were alive and within a mile, she'd appear the moment I opened the cat food can. As I descended the stairs, I caught sight of her sitting in the dining room, staring into space.

Reassured that she was at least alive, I left her alone and prepared her food. I set it on the floor in the laundry room, knowing there was no drug or spell that would keep her from moving as soon as she caught a whiff of the real

deal. But she never budged. She just sat and stared, intensely.

I approached her. She looked up at me, briefly. But just as quickly, she jerked her head back, focusing on something in the distance. I estimated the direction of her gaze and looked out the French doors onto the patio.

At first, I didn't see anything and then it came into focus: curled up on the green and gray rug just outside the door and apparently sound asleep was an almost full-grown coyote.

I walked toward the door. The cat never moved – just leaned from side to side to look around me and keep the coyote in view at all times.

Was that the end of it?

As I opened the door, the coyote jumped up and ran away, as did Polly, though they were headed in distinctly different directions. It was interesting and weird, but that seemed to be the end of it.

Then, the following morning, my wife, Patti, was at home on flex time and she called me around nine.

"You're not going to believe this," she said. "There was a coyote curled up on the rug on the patio right outside the open French doors."

"Where's the cat," I asked.

"No idea."

"Any fur or blood on the patio?"

"No."

I breathed a sigh of relief. "She's probably in the linen closet or under the bed. She saw him yesterday."

"It was unbelievable," said Patti. "He was just lying there."

"What did you do?"

"I threw the mail at him."

"Good move!" I said. "Even coyotes hate junk mail."

"Why is he coming onto our porch?"

"It's possible," I said, "That one of the raccoons scrawled a message on the floor of the canyon like, 'For a good time, go to Jake's.'"

He was back again

An hour later, there was another call. Wiley Coyote – as we dubbed him – was back and sleeping in the same spot. Patti had chased him off by threatening to turn on the vacuum cleaner. Another hour, another call. I finally suggested that she call Animal Control.

Wiley returned for a fourth visit of the day and shortly thereafter an Animal Control officer arrived to capture and remove it. As Patti spoke with Officer Bob, she noticed that he had a few facial tics and made occasional grunting sounds, but didn't think much of it.

He explained that he was going to get one of those "noose on a stick" thingies

and capture Wiley Coyote where he lay sleeping.

But as Officer Bob stealthily approached the dozing canine, pole extended, loop hanging, he was overcome by his tics and experienced a full-blown Turret's Syndrome episode, screaming uncontrollably, "You #\$\$%^%%#\$#\$**\$!!!"

Before Officer Bob could regain full control of himself and his pole, Wiley Coyote had avoided the loop and hit the road back into the canyon.

Polly suddenly reappeared, looking both pleased and hungry.

Now, one might think that, considering his affliction, animal catching was not the absolutely best profession for Officer Bob. Interestingly however, Wiley Coyote has never returned. Perhaps coyotes hate obscenity even more than junk mail.

Jake Satin-Jacobs is the operations performance analysis manager in the Service Performance Analysis Department.

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



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Former Metro Bus Operator Sentenced on Fraud Charge

(Oct. 21, 2005) Former Metro Bus operator Renee Henderson was sentenced in Los Angeles Superior Court, Friday, after pleading guilty to one count of felony insurance fraud.

Henderson was ordered to pay \$15,245 in restitution, serve 90 days in jail and three years' probation.

Henderson was arrested, Oct. 12, following an investigation conducted by the Metro Special Investigations Unit. She was charged with six counts of insurance fraud and two counts of attempted felony perjury.

Henderson, who was fired from her job at West Hollywood Division 7 in March 2003, had been working at another company while claiming to be temporarily disabled and unable to work.

She continued to collect Workers' Compensation benefits during that time and did not report any earnings to Metro, as required by law.

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/
Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

From left, Mauricia Vargas, Armando Trujillo, Jose Garcia, and Brian Takamiyashiro, Fernando Aguilar, David Santillanez, and Sabino Diaz enjoy dessert at RRC safety bash.



Photos by Arlene Lim

RRC Employees Celebrate Another Safety and Health Record

By ARLENE LIM

(Oct. 21, 2005) "Last year we finished third, the year before we were first, and this year we're first again," said George Williamson, administrative analyst, at the Regional Rebuild Center.

No strangers to landing on top, RRC employees were again at the head of the line, recently celebrating their achievement of earning the highest score overall in the Safety and Health Assessment Review Program (SHARP).

"Actually, it's very hard to finish first, but they put forth their very best effort and management is very safety conscious," said Senior Safety Specialist Henry Ho. "Safety is the responsibility of management, so if they don't support us, it's impossible for us to implement the programs – that's why this particular facility is so good and so low in the injuries bracket."

The celebration luncheon included platefuls of chicken, beans, salad and homemade potato salad were served up at the luncheon – for desert, ice cream.



From right, Mechanic "A" David Santillanez; Body Repairers Kenna Lewis, Victor Wada and Alfredo Garcia; and Mechanic "A" Leader Efrain Garcia move their way through the lunch line.

"We're here eight to ten hours a day, 20 to 23 years out of our lives – you build friendships," said Mechanic A Abel Tamez about the celebration. "It gives the guys a chance to mingle and it's good for the camaraderie."

The RRC employees wanted to do more than just celebrate, they wanted to extend a helping hand to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Of the \$2,500 received for the first place finish, \$1,500 was donated to the American Red Cross to benefit the victims on the Gulf Coast.

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/
Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Annual Benefits Open Enrollment Begins Nov. 1

- Non-contract, AFSCME and Teamster employees

(Oct. 25, 2005) The annual benefits open enrollment period for non-contract, AFSCME, and Teamster begins, Tuesday, Nov. 1 and will end Friday, Nov. 18.

Employee meetings to review benefit plan changes and updates to the on-line enrollment system will be held:

Wednesday, Oct. 26, at 11 a.m. in the Union Station Conference Room and at 2 p.m. in the Gateway Plaza Conference Room.

Thursday, Oct. 27, at 1 p.m. in the Gateway Plaza Conference Room and at 3 p.m. in the same location.

Friday, Oct. 28, at 10 a.m. in the OD&T Conference Room on the 4th floor and at 2 p.m. in the same location.

Blue Cross benefits change

Beginning Jan. 1, 2006, there will be a change in benefits for employees enrolled in the Blue Cross PPO.

The mental health and substance abuse benefits previously provided by Value Options will now be covered by the Blue Cross PPO medical plan. The change is expected to provide a wider network of providers, enhanced customer service and claims processing.

Additional information will be provided shortly to members currently enrolled in the Blue Cross PPO medical plan.

Detailed instructions relating to the transition procedures will be included to assist those who remain in active treatment and/or who have claims pending at the current time.

For more information, contact the Pension and Benefits staff if you have questions or need assistance completing open enrollment. Contacts are Judi Cline at 922-7186 and Ed Myatt at 922-7185.



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)

[Pressroom](#) (web)

[Ask the CEO](#)

[CEO Forum](#)

[Employee Recognition](#)

[Employee Activities](#)

[Metro Projects](#)

[Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

[Archives](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Research Center/Library](#)

[Metro Classifieds](#)

[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)

[Policies](#)

[Training](#)

[Help Desk](#)

[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Metro’s Brenda Diederichs to Brief CAC on Labor Issues

By RICH MORALLO

(Oct. 25, 2005) Brenda Diederichs, Metro’s Labor and Employee Relations chief, will brief the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) on the agency’s labor issues at a meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 26.

Scheduled at 6:30 p.m. in the Gateway Plaza Room, 3rd floor, Metro Headquarters, the meeting is open to the public.

Diederichs will give an overview of the current status of the agency's bargaining agreements with the UTU, ATU, TCU, AFSCME and Teamsters Local 911.

Appointed by the Board of Directors, CAC members offer Metro a broad spectrum of interests from all geographic areas of the county. The CAC collects comments from the public and forwards them, along with its recommendations on various transit issues, to the Board for review.

The Board can also assign issues to the CAC for review, comment and recommendations.

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

In the past six months, deputies have written some 500 traffic citations on the Metro Orange Line, Sheriff Lee Baca said, Monday, at a media event emphasizing safety on the transitway. He was joined by, from left, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and City Councilmember Wendy Greuel, all of whom called for motorists, bikers and pedestrians to obey traffic signals at Orange Line intersections. The point was underscored when a car ran a red light in front of the bus carrying officials and media to the event, almost causing an accident.



Photo by Juan Ocampo

Metro Orange Line Opens This Weekend to the Public

- VIP ceremony scheduled, Friday, at Balboa station

(Oct. 25, 2005) Almost three years in the building, the Metro Orange Line is set for its official opening, Friday, with five public events scheduled, Saturday, and free rides for the public throughout the weekend.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, CEO Roger Snoble and other elected officials and community leaders will participate in Grand Opening ceremonies at the Balboa station, about midway along the 14-mile transitway.

At midmorning, the inaugural Metro Liner carrying the VIPs will burst through a banner as it approaches the station. That bus will be driven by Transportation Operations Supervisor Steve Rank, a member of the Orange Line special projects team.

More than 500 Metro volunteers are expected on Saturday to assist at community events planned at five Orange Line stations. No events are planned for Sunday, Oct. 30. Buses will run Saturday from 6 a.m. to 8

p.m. and Sunday from 5 a.m. to midnight.

The community celebrations are scheduled between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m at the North Hollywood, Van Nuys, Balboa, DeSoto and Warner Center stations. Activities will include music, food vendors, a pumpkin patch and haunted house, live radio broadcast and marching bands.

Orange Line operators

Twenty-six full-time operators have been named as the first of those who will drive the 14-mile route over the years to come. Nine extra-board operators also will work Metro Liner shifts.

The full-time operators are Anita Allen-Roberts, Agustin Alvarado, Victor Contreras, Liam Daly, Betty Edwards-Hall, Gilbert Felix, Kamran Firouzi, Ernesto Garcia, Andrew Harris, Robert Higbee, Michael Korp and Daniel Mathison.

Also, Terry McCrary, Betty Mosley, Gerardo Perez, Hugo Repreza, Sabrina Sparks, Edgar Tormos, Timothy Valdes, Lea Scott, Shakana Contreras, Gerald Nolen, Isabelo Pascual, Francisco Escobedo, James Green and Shiv Bhardwaj.

MYMETRO.NET

Something news every day!


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[Ask the CEO](#)
[CEO Forum](#)
[Employee Recognition](#)
[Employee Activities](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/ Library](#)
[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)
[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

In the past six months, deputies have written some 500 traffic citations on the Metro Orange Line, Sheriff Lee Baca said, Monday, at a media event emphasizing safety on the transitway. He was joined by, from left, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and City Councilmember Wendy Greuel, all of whom called for motorists, bikers and pedestrians to obey traffic signals at Orange Line intersections. The point was underscored when a car ran a red light in front of the bus carrying officials and media to the event, almost causing an accident.



Photo by Juan Ocampo

Metro Orange Line Opens This Weekend to the Public

- VIP ceremony scheduled, Friday, at Balboa station

(Oct. 25, 2005) Almost three years in the building, the Metro Orange Line is set for its official opening, Friday, with five public events scheduled, Saturday, and free rides for the public throughout the weekend.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, CEO Roger Snoble and other elected officials and community leaders will participate in Grand Opening ceremonies at the Balboa station, about midway along the 14-mile transitway.

At midmorning, the inaugural Metro Liner carrying the VIPs will burst through a banner as it approaches the station. That bus will be driven by Transportation Operations Supervisor Steve Rank, a member of the Orange Line special projects team.

More than 500 Metro volunteers are expected on Saturday to assist at community events planned at five Orange Line stations. No events are planned for Sunday, Oct. 30. Buses will run Saturday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 5 a.m. to midnight.

The community celebrations are scheduled between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the North Hollywood, Van Nuys, Balboa, DeSoto and Warner Center

stations. Activities will include music, food vendors, a pumpkin patch and haunted house, live radio broadcast and marching bands.

Orange Line operators

Twenty-six full-time operators have been named as the first of those who will drive the 14-mile route over the years to come. Nine extra-board operators also will work Metro Liner shifts.

The full-time operators are Anita Allen-Roberts, Agustin Alvarado, Victor Contreras, Liam Daly, Betty Edwards-Hall, Gilbert Felix, Kamran Firouzi, Ernesto Garcia, Andrew Harris, Robert Higbee, Michael Korp and Daniel Mathison.

Also, Terry McCrary, Betty Mosley, Gerardo Perez, Hugo Repreza, Sabrina Sparks, Edgar Tormos, Timothy Valdes, Lea Scott, Shakana Contreras, Gerald Nolen, Isabelo Pascual, Francisco Escobedo, James Green and Shiv Bhardwaj.

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

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey, center, congratulated maintenance employees at Arthur Winston Division 5 for their safety achievement. With the group, to Coffey's left, is the division namesake, 99-year-old Service Attendant Leader Arthur Winston.



Division 5 Achieves 365 Days with no Lost-Time Injuries

By RICH MORALLO

(Oct. 26, 2005) Renee Navarre McLin says it's because staff members clean up after themselves. Fellow mechanics Andrew Warren and Terry Owens think it's focusing on the job and watching out for spills.

Whatever the answer, the maintenance crew at Arthur Winston Division 5 achieved a remarkable 365 days without a lost-time injury case on Saturday, Oct. 23.

"We look out after each other," says McLin, a mechanic "A". "If a coworker is working with us, we make sure the area is safe at all times, by cleaning up after we work, staying alert and watching what's around us."

Warren adds, "We keep our minds on our jobs and always exercise caution."

Owens says, "Whenever we have spills, we clean up immediately and also make sure the hoses are rolled up right."

Mechanics and service attendants at the 10-acre Chesterfield Square bus yard also share their safety suggestions and comments with others.

Photos by Bobby Miles

Establish safe patterns

"Staff use the Field Observation and Feedback form to report safety questions and help establish safe patterns," says Assistant



Maintenance Manager Sergio Rubalcava.

Division 5 maintenance is No. 1, according to Mechanic "A" Renee Navarre McLin.

At a recent information session, General Manager Dana Coffey congratulated the maintainers for achieving the one-year milestone and also earning the How You Doin' award twice in nine months.

The award is an incentive program based on work performance evaluations in relation to other Metro divisions. Typically, each maintenance division is graded on attendance, mean miles between chargeable mechanical failures, bus cleanliness and Workers' Compensation claims.

Division 5 earned the recognition in December 2004 and again in August 2005.

"As a result of our people truly putting safety first, our division has reached these milestones and has stayed safe in the workplace," says Maintenance Manager Alex DiNuzzo.


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

Resources

[▶ Safety](#)
[▶ Pressroom \(web\)](#)
[▶ Ask the CEO](#)
[▶ CEO Forum](#)
[▶ Employee Recognition](#)
[▶ Employee Activities](#)
[▶ Metro Projects](#)
[▶ Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)
[▶ Archives](#)
[▶ Events Calendar](#)
[▶ Research Center/Library](#)
[▶ Metro Classifieds](#)
[▶ Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[▶ 30/10 Initiative](#)
[▶ Policies](#)
[▶ Training](#)
[▶ Help Desk](#)
[▶ Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

New Policy to Better Accommodate Employees' Religious Obligations

- Metro will make 'good faith' effort under legal settlement
- Requires cooperation of agency and employees

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 26, 2005) With the settlement earlier this month of a federal lawsuit, Metro will draw up a new policy ensuring that the agency will make a "good faith effort" to accommodate employees who have religious obligations that restrict their working hours.

The terms of the settlement in the case, which involved a bus operator trainee who is an Orthodox Jew, refer specifically to Metro Bus operators. However, some elements of the policy are expected to have a wider reach that will include all Metro employees.

The new policy, which is due in January, will supplement HR 3-1, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status or disability. New job marketing materials will reflect the new religious accommodations policy.

Metro worked with the UTU to negotiate the settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice over a period of about a year. It includes ways to accommodate bus operators who have strict religious obligations that would conflict with certain shifts – usually on evenings or weekends – while leaving the UTU's seniority system intact.

'Good faith effort'

"We're required by law to make a good faith effort to accommodate operators who have sincere religious beliefs," says Attorney Mary Reyna of the County Counsel's office, who helped negotiate the settlement, "and that's what we'll do."

The settlement includes a detailed procedure under which Metro managers and affected operators are required to cooperate in reaching agreement on ways to accommodate an operator's religious requirements.

That usually will mean finding an appropriate shift the operator can work – even if it's at another operating division or in a different sector.

It also can include placing an operator on "Religious Unpaid Leave Status" (RULS) for up to 30 days until a suitable assignment is identified. Failure to find a suitable assignment by the expiration of the 30-day period, according to the terms of the settlement, could lead to the operator's termination.

Serious religious needs

“We’re not talking about a person who needs an occasional day off to attend a religious service or participate in a religious holiday,” says HR Director Stefan Chasnov. “A preference not to work on Christmas, or not to work Sunday mornings, will not be accommodated. This process is intended for those who seriously need a religious accommodation.”

The settlement sets caps on the number of days operators can be placed on RULS, and includes limits on the number of operators at a division and systemwide who can be placed on RULS.

While on RULS, an operator remains eligible for health benefits, seniority accrual, vacation time or other paid time off. An operator is allowed to use vacation or paid time off, if otherwise entitled to do so, before going on RULS.

Operations managers and supervisors are to receive training in the new religious accommodations policy by the end of March, 2006.

“In reaching this agreement, the Department of Justice understood Metro’s business necessities and the realities at work here,” says Reyna. “Operators have to plan ahead and give us reasonable advance notice, they can’t just come in at the last minute.”

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/ Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Metro Orange Line artworks feature terrazzo paving at platforms, colorful porcelain steel art panels at each station entry, sculpted seating and various landscaping elements. Pictured here: The Woodman Station platform is framed by canopies, colorful seating and a double line of Aleppo trees and Torrey Pines that run the length of the project and are spaced to approximate the sense of movement of the 60-foot articulated buses on the transitway. Photo by Gary Leonard.



Artworks flourish along the Metro Orange Line

- Artful Stations: [Metro Orange Line Gallery](#)

When it opens to the public, Oct. 29, the Metro Orange Line will debut artfully designed stations, plazas and landscaping featuring the work of 14 California artists.

"The artists commissioned for the Metro Orange Line have created a unique sense of place for future transitway patrons and have made what we believe is a great contribution to our customers' experience," said Maya Emsden, deputy executive officer, Creative Services.

Artworks include terrazzo paving at platforms, colorful porcelain steel art panels at each station entry, sculpted seating and various landscaping elements.

"This work is a tribute to the Valley," said Renée Petropoulos, who served as the lead artist on the project. "I envisioned artworks strewn across the Valley as jewels on a 14-mile necklace."

Petropoulos worked with the project design team to provide the Orange Line with a unified, streamlined continuous aesthetic and, as lead artist, influenced the design of the station canopies, platforms and seating as well as the materials and colors used in the stations.

Plaza seating areas at five station park and ride lots were also designed by Petropoulos; shade structures, also to be designed by the artist, are anticipated at a future date. She has entitled the work "14 Miles."



Lead artist Renée Petropoulos



Landscape artist Jud Fine

Landscape artist Jud Fine collaborated with the project landscape architect to develop landscaping artwork and plantings integrated throughout the Orange Line route, now a garden of some than 800,000 new plants and shrubs as well as 5,000 new trees.

In addition to seven landscape art areas, designed specifically to reflect local conditions, Fine selected the double line of Aleppo trees and Torrey Pines that run the length of the project and are spaced to approximate the sense of movement of the 60-foot articulated buses on the transitway. Sculpted markers, to be placed in the landscaping, are anticipated at a future date. He has entitled the work "Seven Spots and a Path."

The artwork was incorporated into 13 stations of the Metro Orange Line by the following artists, (listed in station order, east to west): Caryl Davis, "Dramatic Locale" at the North Hollywood Station; Phung Huynh, "Lucky California" at the Laurel Canyon Station; Laura London, "Former Location/Contemporary Portrait" at the Valley College Station; Daniel Marlos, "Journey to California" at the Woodman Station; Roxene Rockwell, "Van Nuys, The New Town" at the Van Nuys Station, Michele Martínez, "Todos vuelven/Everyone Returns" at the Sepulveda Station; John Roloff, "Valley Scan" at the Woodley Station; John O'Brien, "OverSite" at the Balboa Station; Jody Zellen, "Now and Then" at the Reseda Station; Sandow Birk, "Tarzan and Tarzana" at the Tampa Station; Pat Warner, "What We See" at the Pierce College Station; John Divola, "Images from 'Dogs Chasing My Car in the Desert'" at the DeSoto Station; and Roy Dowell, "Constructed Histories" at the future Canoga Station (anticipated to open in 2006).

[Back to article](#)

Gallery - Metro Orange Line stations

Photos by Gary Leonard

[North Hollywood](#) / [Laurel Canyon](#) / [Valley College](#) / [Woodman](#) / [Van Nuys](#) / [Sepulveda](#) / [Woodley](#) / [Balboa](#) / [Reseda](#) / [Tampa](#) / [Pierce College](#) / [De Soto](#) / [Canoga](#) (future)

North Hollywood Station: Caryl Davis | *'Dramatic Locale'*

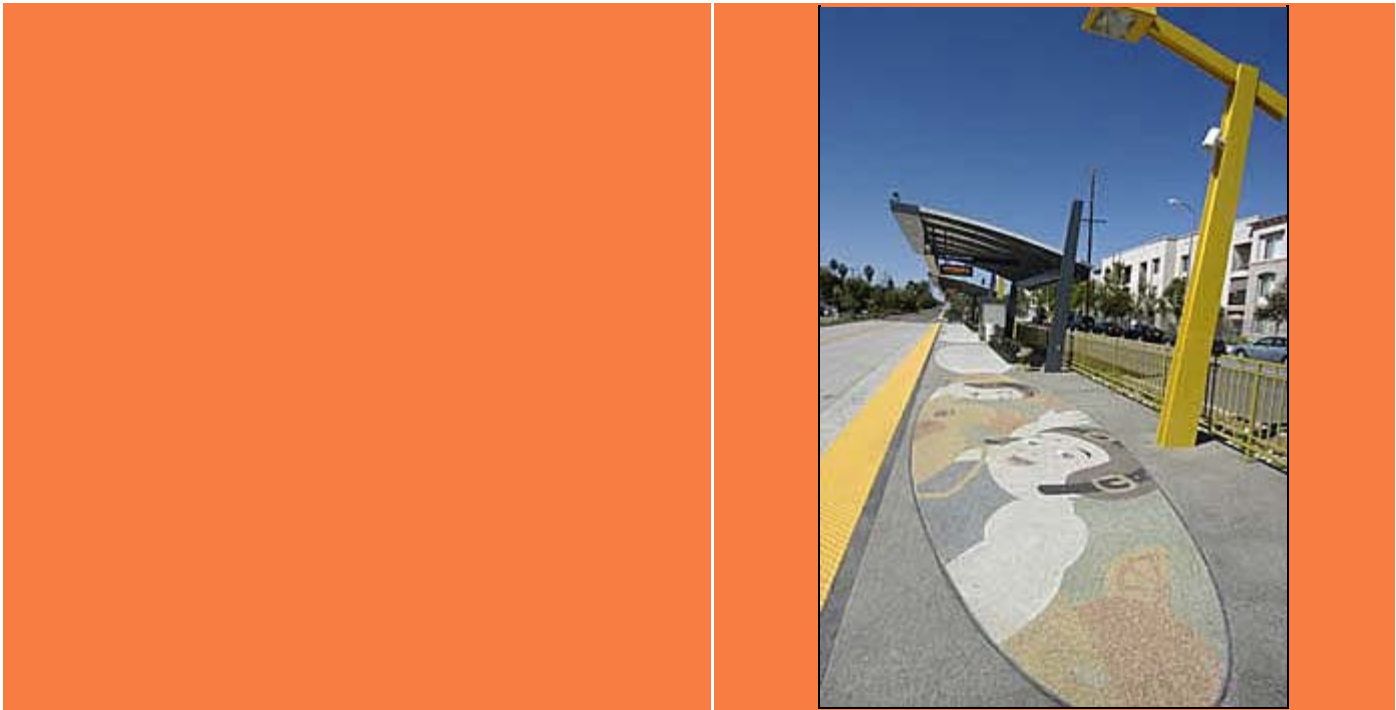


Caryl Davis is an L.A.-based artist, holds a BA and MFA from UCLA, and has taught life drawing at SCIARC for many years. Her work explores relationships between the body, environment and new materials. Entitled "Dramatic Locale," Davis' work at the North Hollywood Orange Line Station features text suggestive of geologic strata and portrays a dialogue between land and a changing population. The art panel at the station entrance lists the many place-names given to the region's landforms by its inhabitants. Orange Line passengers will literally walk into the San Fernando Valley over a rocky terrazzo image of the region—crossing vast ranges, valleys and fault zones extending from coast to desert, as seen from space.

[Top](#)

Laurel Canyon Station: Phung Huynh | *'Lucky California'*





Chinese/Cambodian painter Phung Huynh was born in Vietnam and now lives and works in L.A. after completing her BFA at the Art Center College of Design and MFA at New York University. Her work draws from allegories and fables as well as from traditional and contemporary American imagery. Working in a pop culture sensibility, Huynh's artwork for Laurel Canyon Station, which she has entitled "Lucky California," displays "lucky" Chinese cherubs with California poppies, and Chinese cherub pilots in a surreal yet travel-friendly atmosphere of airplanes, birds and flying oranges. The designs suggest travel, a "bon voyage" gesture, and imagery symbolic of California. They are lucky symbols and happy gestures that welcome or bid farewell to travelers in the area. [Top](#)

Valley College Station: Laura London | 'Former Location/Contemporary Portrait'



Laura London is an LA based artist raised in Chicago, Illinois. She received her MFA from California Institute of the Arts and teaches photography at Otis College of Art and Design. Her photographic work integrates contemporary youth and popular culture within the environment. For Valley College Station, London's black and white contemporary portraits shot in historic locations of rock 'n' roll history reference the styles and fashions of the times and is entitled "Former Location/Contemporary Portrait." Recreated scenes of the San Fernando Valley include the 1969 Rolling Stones album cover "Big Hits (High Tides and Green Grass)," shot in Franklin Canyon, and Devonshire Downs (racetrack), where the Newport '69 Festival headlined Jimi Hendrix, The Animals, Marvin Gaye and others. It was also formerly the original Valley College location (now Cal State University Northridge). [Top](#)

Woodman Station: Daniel Marlos | 'Journey to California'



Daniel Marlos, an L.A.-based artist, grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, received his MFA from Art Center College of Design and teaches at LA City College. He is an installation artist, whose primary media has been photography and film. He has recently expanded his media to include the handmade quilt. For the Woodman Station, Daniel Marlos selected "Journey to California," a quilt pattern that references both California and travel. The pattern is also the title to the work. After first creating a quilt in this pattern he then photographed it and incorporated the photographic image into the entry panel at the station; the pattern is also incorporated into the terrazzo paving. Many quilt designs have descriptive names that are associated with transportation.

[Top](#)

Van Nuys Station: Roxene Rockwell | 'Van Nuys, The New Town'



L.A. based artist Roxene Rockwell attended L.A. Valley College, and has an MA from Antioch University Southern California. Her collages and assemblages have a surreal quality and primarily deal with re-examining ordinarily things and placing them in unexpected surroundings. For the Van Nuys Station Rockwell depicts wheat and sugar beet fields, reminders of what was here before

Van Nuys was subdivided in 1911. The chicken represents the chicken farms that existed in north Van Nuys and the floating musical notes draw attention to the fact that organs were produced for the silent movie theaters within walking distance of this station. Twinkling lights seen from the hill above represent the Van Nuys that we know today. She has titled the work "Van Nuys, The New Town." [Top](#)

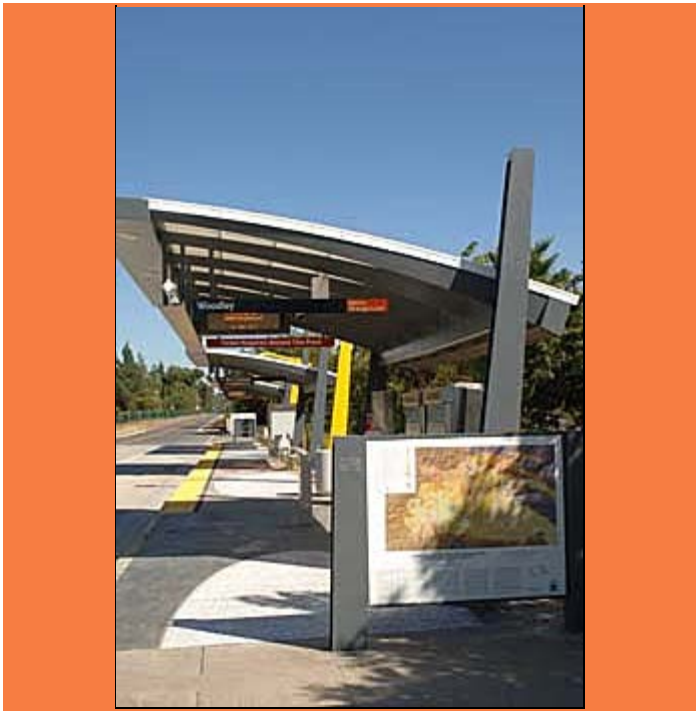
Sepulveda Station: Michele Martínez | 'Todos vuelven/Everyone Returns'



Michele Martínez has an MA in Latin American Studies from UCLA. She has taught language, art and cultural studies at various schools throughout Southern California. For her work she collects stories and invokes imagination to render works in paper, fabric and paint. For Sepulveda Station, Martínez included a map of the Monarch Butterfly's western migratory path along the West Coast and a Monarch larvae on a double spiral which references the genetic encoding that spurs every third generation of butterflies to complete a migration from Canada to central Mexico. Entitled "Todos vuelven/Everyone Returns," this work is a tribute to the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve and the efforts of the people who strive to protect natural habitats. [Top](#)

Woodley Station: John Roloff | 'Valley Scan'

John Roloff, an internationally recognized Bay area visual artist with a background in science, works conceptually with site, process and natural systems. He is Professor and Chair of Sculpture at the Center for Art and Science at the San Francisco Art Institute. Roloff's artwork at Woodley Station, entitled "Valley Scan," references the geological make up of the Van Nuys, Sepulveda and San Fernando Valley area as well as paying homage to the geologists who study the Valley. A gradient of light creates the illusion of a "cavity" with mud cracks indicating water from ancient aquifers, while "boulders" reveal remnants of an imaginary, ancient event dispersing the rocks now held in place by subsequent deposition. West oriented shadows represent a moment in time, in the late afternoon of one day, perhaps hundreds of thousands of years ago buried by geologic processes now revealed by the cavities "excavation." The illusion of depth is an invitation to look beneath the Valley's surface both literally and imaginatively. [Top](#)

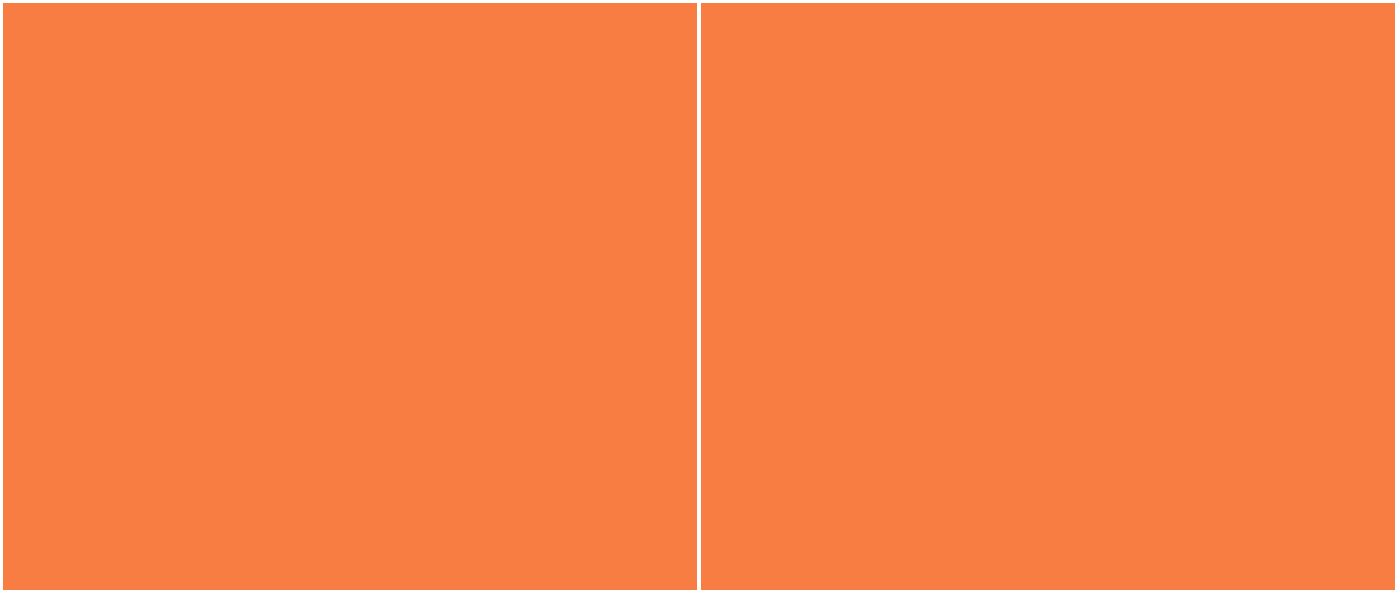


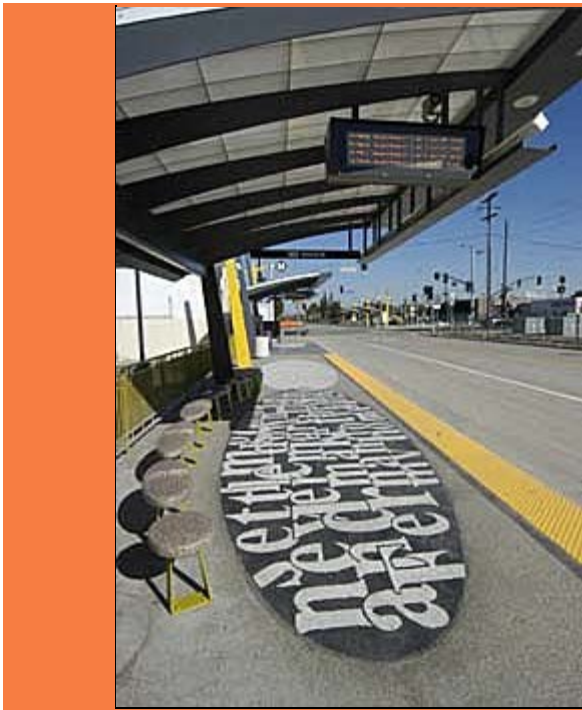
Balboa Station: John O'Brien | 'OverSite'



John O'Brien, who recently completed works at two L.A. libraries, has a MFA from USC and teaches sculpture at California State University Northridge. He has years of experience as an artist, educator and fabricator with a special focus on the traditions of assemblage art and large sculpture. Entitled "OverSite," O'Brien's work for Balboa Station incorporates images taken from high altitude aerial photos and from landsat satellite sources. A person in transit can either enjoy the artwork from the purely decorative point of view or delve into its mapping and discover that it actually maps the area they are transiting through. [Top](#)

Reseda Station: Jody Zellen | 'Now and Then'





A photo-based artist Jody Zellen, lives in L.A. and works in many media simultaneously making photographs, installations, net art, public art, as well as artists' books that explore the subject of the urban environment. She holds an MFA from California Institute of the Arts and teaches at Cal Poly Pomona. Zellen's work for the Reseda Station, entitled "Now and Then," incorporate images from the San Fernando Valley that trace its architectural history and its relationship to the city of Los Angeles. Text based work includes a verse from the San Fernando Valley song by Gordon Jenkins and a quote by Catherine Mulholland.

[Top](#)

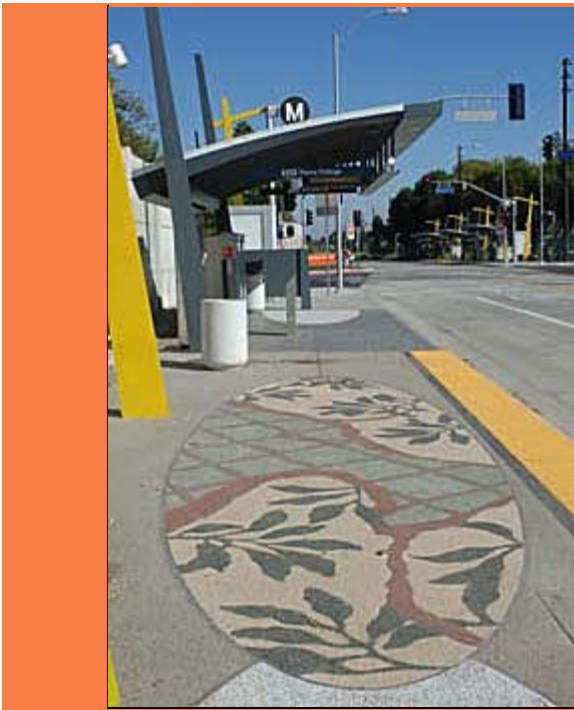
Tampa Station: Sandow Birk | *'Tarzan and Tarzana'*



Raised on the beaches of Southern California, Sandow Birk is currently living and working in Long Beach and holds a BFA from Otis College of Art and Design. His work, which often uses historical genres with a satirical contemporary twist, focuses on social and political issues including Los Angeles' inner city barrios, the 1992 civil disturbances, O.J. Simpson, the LAPD, gangs, surfing, and skateboarding; he also completed several works documenting a fictional war between LA and San Francisco. Birk's work for the Tampa Station relate to the town of Tarzana as named after Edgar Rice Burroughs' most famous creation and hero of more than twenty of his novels, Tarzan of the Apes. Sandow Birk selected the zebra skin and the giraffe skin as patterns, readily recognizable and identifiable with Africa, and reproduced the entire 28 chapter, 172 page text of the book "Tarzan of the Apes." The text has been printed in two portions, one for each platform, so that over the course of repeated visits passengers can read the book in its entirety. He has entitled the work "Tarzan and Tarzana." [Top](#)

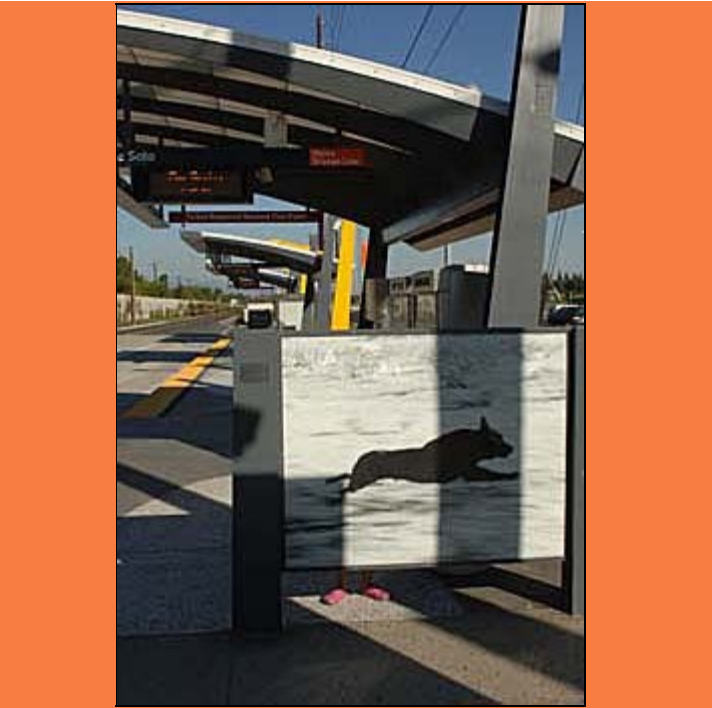
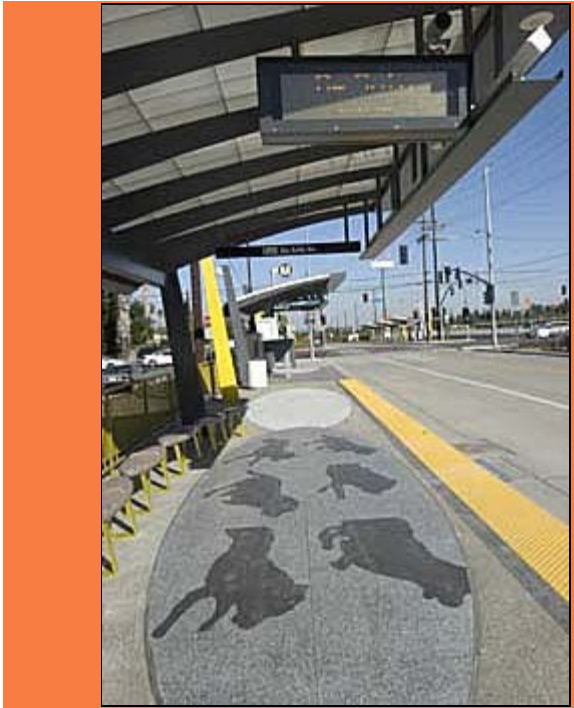
Pierce College Station: Pat Warner | *'What We See'*





Pat Warner was raised in a Mennonite community in Lancaster County, Penn., and attended the Museum School of Art, Museum of Fine Art in Houston, Texas. Using materials as varied as wood, steel, and concrete, Warner's installations express concerns about our environment. Entitled "What We See," Warner's designs for Pierce College Station reflect the college's emphasis on agricultural programs. The imagery make references to nature and horticulture: leaves and tree limbs refer to the natural landscape and the lattice design of overlapping branches refer to espaliering, a traditional method of pruning and training fruit trees. The art panels feature images of birds that have been sighted on the campus. Red tailed hawk, mockingbird, and Canada goose are common species that most users of the station will recognize. Western tanagers, western bluebirds and some species of warblers are less common but will be recognized by more observant travelers. [Top](#)

De Soto Station: John Divola | "Images from 'Dogs Chasing My Car in the Desert'"



A past Canoga area resident, L.A.-based John Divola holds a MFA from UCLA and is a Professor at UC Riverside. He works primarily with photography and digital imaging and has approached a broad range of subjects. Divola's design elements for the De Soto Station involve images of dogs chasing cars. The terrazzo ellipses are dog run sequences and the enamel panels are individual dogs frozen in motion. He has entitled the work 'Images from 'Dogs Chasing My Car in the Desert.'" [Top](#)

Canoga Station: Roy Dowell | 'Constructed Histories'

*TBA: The Canoga Park Station is anticipated to open in 2006.



Based in L.A. and Palm Springs, Roy Dowell holds both a BFA and MFA from California Institute of the Arts and is Chair of Graduate Studies in Fine Art at Otis College of Art and Design. He works primarily as a painter but has produced both sculptures and installations. His work includes both representational and abstract elements taken from a wide range of sources, locations and cultural references. Dowell's work, entitled "Constructed Histories," will be installed in the future Canoga Station (anticipated to open in 2006) and utilizes images of neighboring signage and found printed posters and advertisements combined with other found printed material. The aircraft engine being used as a public sculpture at the Boeing plant across the street from the future Metro site was another point of inspiration, an object taken out of context and presented for purely aesthetic consideration. [Top](#)

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/ Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Metro Schedules 3 Community Meetings on Expo Project

By RICK JAGER

(Oct. 28, 2005) Metro will hold three community meetings in November to receive public comment on the recently released Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report (FEIS/FEIR) on the proposed Exposition Light Rail Transit Project, currently in a 45-day public circulation period.

The Exposition Line, which would operate from downtown Los Angeles to Venice/Robertson Boulevards in Culver City, will be built with local funding instead of federal funding, thus keeping the project on an accelerated schedule for a June 2010 completion. Cost of the project is \$640 million.

The community meetings will be held on:

- Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 5 - 8 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City.
- Thursday, Nov. 3, from 5 - 8 p.m. at West Los Angeles Church - Crystal Room, North Campus, 3045 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles.
- Wednesday, Nov. 9, from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Exposition Park Muses Room in the Wallis Annenberg Building, 700 State Drive, Los Angeles.

Next steps following the public review period will include certification of the FEIS/FEIR by the Board in early December and the issuance after the Board action of a Record of Decision (ROD) for the project by the Federal Transit Administration.

FTA environmental clearance is needed to enable the Exposition Construction Authority to award a contract for design and construction of the project, beginning in early 2006.


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)

▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)

▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

The inaugural Metro Liner, bearing Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, CEO Roger Snoble and other elected and community leaders, bursts through an orange banner at the Balboa Station. Photo by Bill Heard



Burst of Orange Opens New Transit Service in the Valley

- 'A new era for the San Fernando Valley,' Mayor says
- 'Wave of the future,' says Yaroslavsky
- Opening ceremonies: [A star is born.](#)

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 28, 2005) Gathered under a huge white tent at the Balboa station in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, Friday morning, scores of city and county leaders were joined by Metro officials for ceremonies marking the official opening of the Metro Orange Line.

Moments earlier, the inaugural Metro Liner bearing Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, CEO Roger Snoble and other elected and community leaders, burst through an orange banner as confetti filled the air.

TV personality Huell Howser introduced Villaraigosa who called the Orange Line "a downpayment on progress."

"We begin a new era in the San Fernando Valley today," the mayor declared, "one that's been long-awaited and long-deserved."



CEO Roger Snoble, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa lead dignitaries aboard the inaugural Metro Liner bus for ride to Balboa Station. Photo by Juan Ocampo.

Noting that coming years will see such new transit services as the Eastside Extension and the Exposition Line, Villaraigosa received a standing ovation with cheers and whistles when he said, "Yesterday, the experts said...that it is safe to build a subway down Wilshire Boulevard."

The mayor ended his remarks by singling out Yaroslavsky as the driving force behind construction of the Orange Line.

'Slings and arrows'

"We've taken a lot of slings and arrows, fought lawsuits, fought the wettest winter on record since the 1880s," the supervisor said. "Every conceivable jinx has been put in the way of mass transportation in the San Fernando Valley, but we've persevered...."

Calling the Orange Line the "wave of the future," he said, "This is a Los Angeles solution for a Los Angeles problem. We took the best the world had to offer (in transit technology) and we applied it to Los Angeles."

Metro is now planning to build another station and 800-space park & ride lot in Canoga Park within a year to accommodate commuters at the western end of the transitway.

In his remarks, Snoble recognized the efforts of Valley community and business leaders and elected officials, as well as the planners, engineers and other Metro employees who contributed to the project – calling them "miracle workers."

'Great day for the Valley'

"This is a great day for the citizens of the San Fernando Valley who will be able to take advantage of this service for decades to come," Snoble said.

Contractor Shimmick/Obayashi built the current line in two and a half years. Total project costs, including transitway, buses, bicycle/pedestrian paths,

landscaping and future construction of the Canoga Park station and park & ride lot is \$349.6 million.

Among those attending the Friday event was former Metro CEO Julian Burke, who headed the agency during the opening of the Metro Rail North Hollywood extension and in the early stages of Orange Line planning.

"It's just terrific; it's so beautiful," Burke said of the cross-Valley transitway. "The project is much better than I had ever envisioned it. It's just wonderful."

Opening Ceremony: A Star is Born

Kyrsti Chavez, 5, daughter of Julio Chavez, a Metro Rail transportation operations supervisor, sings the National Anthem during the Metro Orange Line opening ceremonies, Friday. A kindergartener at Arcadia Christian School, Kyrsti has been singing since age 3, winning several competitions. Recently, she sang at the OMNI Awards at the Skirball Center.

Photos by Bill Heard



Metro Rail Transportation Operations Supervisor Julio Chavez took a moment with his daughter, Kyrsti, 5, and members of his family – his wife, Josie, and daughter Justine, 19. The family lives in Arcadia.


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Metro Orange Line Project Manager Roger Dames, foreground, heads a multi-talented construction team that includes Metro employees and employees of the construction management consultant, Carter & Burgess. [See below for names](#)



Photo by Gary Leonard

Metro Orange Line Represents Many LA County Firsts

By DAVE SOTERO

(Oct. 28, 2005) The Metro Orange Line, which opens to the public this weekend, represents many firsts for Los Angeles County.

It is the region's first right-of-way built exclusively for buses. It is the San Fernando Valley's first major transit service since the extension of the Metro Red Line into Universal City and North Hollywood in 2000.

It is also the first time that new custom-designed, high-tech Metro Liner buses will be placed into service within the county.

The 60-foot, 57-passenger Metro Liners were built from the ground up with such amenities as multiple-entry doors for easier boarding and alighting, a roomy interior, full accessibility and automated station announcement system.

Artistically designed stations also have such amenities as canopies, ticket vending machines, 24-hour video surveillance with passenger assistance telephones, lighting, seating, public address system and public telephones.

The transitway incorporates a host of other innovative construction and design features, from advanced traffic light signal priority system to five park & ride lots with more than 3,200 free parking spaces, bicycle and pedestrian paths.

Metro has also planted extensive landscaping along the transitway, including more than 800,000 plants, 5,000 trees and six landscape art areas.

Operating hours

The 14-mile line has 13 stations and will operate buses every five to six minutes during peak weekday morning and afternoon rush hours.

Buses will then operate every 10-15 minutes during the day and every 20 minutes during the late night and early morning hours. On weekends, buses will operate about every 10-20 minutes.

The hours of operation will be from 4 a.m. to 1 a.m. seven days a week. Schedules are closely coordinated with Metro Red Line operating hours.

Major destinations available along the line include Valley College, Van Nuys Civic Center, Woodley Lake Golf Course, the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area, Lake Balboa Park, and Pierce College.

The western end of the line serves Warner Center, the third-largest employment center in Los Angeles County. Dining and shopping destinations at Warner Center Station include the Westfield Promenade and Westfield Topanga.

Pictured here with Roger Dames are Donna Garcia, Rick Carlson, Sal Hernandez, Charles Fitzsimmons, Mark Van Gessel, Garry Warren, William R. Browly, Ghulam M. Shaikh, Robert Hupp, Bonnie Verdin, Kathleen Sanchez, Connie Levinson, Ned Racine, Leonid Bukhin, Essan Aly, Erik Qvale, Duncan Lestina, Stephen Nix, Rosario Zertuche, Jerry Palmer, Alberto Alva, James J. Cohen, Robert P. Sechler, Steve Moini. Not pictured are Devon Cichoski, Ivan Page, Don Costa Seawell, Peter Jung, Mana Katkaphan, Sam Sampat, Duncan Robb, Donna Lafont, Michael Cummings, Hitesh Patel, Scott McConnell, Cris Liban, Quinton Sumabat, Lynn Harmon and Peggie Blackiston.

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

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

A Special Song for the Metro Orange Line



Photo by Gary Leonard

(Oct. 31, 2005) Kids from the Woodcrest Elementary Chorus performed a medley of songs, last Friday, at the conclusion of the Metro Orange Line grand opening ceremony.

Their performance included a song, "Goin' on a Bus Trip," specially written for the event by Robert DiGiovanni and sung to the tune of John Denver's "Leaving on a Jet Plane." The Chorus is led by Sara-Jane DiGiovanni.

"Goin' on a Bus Trip"

If you wanna go to Woodland Hills,

North Hollywood, or just have thrills

We have a special bus line just for you.

Runs from Valley East to Valley West

With brand new cars, they are the best

It's clean and quick and quite convenient, too!

We're goin' on a bus trip

We're gonna take the Orange Line

Goin' on a bus trip

We're gonna take the Orange Line

That's 'cause we're in the know.

We're goin' on a bus trip
We're gonna take the Orange Line
Oh we can't wait to go.

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