

[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 November, 2005

### Wednesday, November 30

[Expo Line Board](#) to Consider Environmental Recommendation

Citizens' Advisory Council Names [Person of the Year](#)

[Sector Governance Councils](#) Set December Meetings

### Tuesday, November 29

[Metro to Honor Civil Rights Pioneer Rosa Parks](#) at Thursday Ceremony

[Obituary](#) - Private Funeral Service for Retired Customer Service Agent Vivian Williams

[Metro Sets Public Hearing](#) on Transit Needs in Antelope Valley

### Wednesday, November 20

[Articulated Buses](#) to Debut, Dec. 18, on Vermont, Western Avenues

[Arthur Winston Crowned](#) Honorary Member of Customer Relations Team

### Tuesday, November 19

[New Jersey Transit](#) On Board with Metro's Rail Safety Program

[Metro Sets Public Hearing](#) on Transit Needs in Santa Clarita

### Friday, November 18

[Transit Safety Officials](#) to Discuss Evacuation of Disabled Persons

Mayor Urges Using Transit to See [Hollywood Christmas Parade](#)

[Citizens Advisory Council Members](#) Have a Vision for LA Transit

### Thursday, November 16

[Bus Operator Safety Belt Policy](#) Takes Effect Following Arbitrator's Ruling

Metro Demonstrates [Prototype Strobe Lights](#) on Orange Line Bus

LA Design Association Impressed by [Metro's Award-Winning Graphics](#)

### Wednesday, November 16

[Division 3 Testing](#) High-Tech Video Recording Device on 215 Buses

['Treasure Hunters'](#) Discover Community 'Jewels' via Metro Rail

[Sharing the Rideshare Dream:](#) Employers Pack Metro Commute Services Workshop

### Tuesday, November 15

[Mobility 21](#) Plans to Expand Transportation Advocacy Role

Mobility 21 Proposes [Broad Range of Recommendations](#)

Downtown Rail Connector, Cleaner Bus Shelters Among [Items on Committee Agendas](#)

### Thursday, November 10

[Veterans Day](#) > Metro's Military Veterans Celebrate in Style at Division 9

[Division 10 Maintenance Team](#) Sets 450-Day Safety Record

[Meet General Grant:](#) Metro's New Bomb Dog

### Wednesday, November 9

[VIEW FROM THE 25TH FLOOR](#) - Successful Orange Line Opening: Congratulations and Thank You!

[Works of Three Local Muralists](#) to Honor Boyle Heights, East LA

[Plenitude of Metro shoppers](#) sample cornucopia of seasonal gifts at annual Craft Fair

### Monday, November 7

Court Date Set for Former Bus Operator Charged with [Insurance Fraud](#)

[Three Metro Veterans](#) Remember Their Service During Wartime

[Metro's Diego Cardoso](#) Named to City Planning Commission

**Friday, November 4**

[Added precautions](#) bolster safety measures on Metro Orange Line

[Division 18 Staff](#) Sets Fundraiser for Cancer Society, Katrina Relief

Save the date: [Employee Craft Fair](#) is Tuesday, Nov. 8

Corporate Safety offers [low-cost flu shots](#) Nov. 9.

[Historic Safes](#) Served Metro and Predecessor Agencies Since 1911

**Tuesday, November 1**

[Metro Call Center](#) treats visiting goblins from the Gateway Child Care Center to lots of candy and goodie bags but the children's visit to decorated work stations and costumed agents was a treat for everyone.

[Slide show:](#) Scenes from a Metro Halloween, Gateway Child Care Center's annual parade and candy raid.

[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](#)

**Happy Halloween:** Metro Call Center treats visiting goblins from the Gateway Child Care Center to lots of candy and goodie bags but the children's visit to decorated work stations and costumed agents was a treat for everyone.



Photos: Gayle Anderson

"I don't know who had more fun with this event, the kids or the staff", said Alonzo Williams, Customer Relations Communications Manager. Customer Relations agents tricked out their work stations and donned imaginative costumes for the event. "It was a true spirit of pride and a morale booster for everyone," said Gail M. Harvey, Director, Customer Relations. But the year's not over yet, said Harvey. Customer Relations looks forward to a meeting with Arthur Winston in November and an Open House for the holiday. These events are coordinated by the Recognition Committee, which is comprised of Paula Grigsby, Steven Texada, Donald McKenzie, Jacqueline Exeart, Virgina Sanchez, Diana Prater, Alonzo Williams and Gail M. Harvey.

Winners for best costumes were selected by co-workers and children visiting the decked-out Call Center chose their favorite and scariest work stations.

Children selected Cindy Butalia's work station, "Funny Frights," which featured a burping rat,





for second place in the workstation contest and Cindy's co-workers gave her 'evil fairy' costume a first place.



The children voted "Sister Joyful" by Jorja Jones third place in the work station division. Jones picked up the "Best Costume" award from her co-workers.



Karla Duran, as Sally from "Nightmare before Christmas," was voted "most original" by co-workers. Her "Desk of Darkness" work station was awarded the first place prize from the visiting goblins.





Co-workers thought Melissa Castillo, Corrine Chamness and Diana Duran, who dressed as the three Carpool Triplets, were the "funniest costume."

| [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](#)

## An estimated 83,000 rode the Orange Line on opening weekend.



Photo by Gary Leonard

## Sammy Said it Best: Metro Orange Line Opening Was 'Cool'

- Public's favorable comments buoyed Metro volunteers

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Nov. 1, 2005) Little Sammy Hobbs, a Valley resident, may have summed it up best. "It was cool," he said, as he stood in line at the Warner Center station with his father, Larry, waiting for their second ride aboard a Metro Liner.

Sammy's assessment of the Metro Orange Line's opening weekend seemed to be shared by the majority of the 83,000 who rode the sleek articulated buses, commented on the comfortable ride and admired the landscaped transitway.

Elaine Irvine of Van Nuys and her friends, Kathleen Brown and Sheri Hooper were making a day of it. Brown was determined to ride "the whole strip," while it was a "historic thing" for Hooper.

Irvine, who lives only a block from the

Photos by Bill Heard



Sammy Hobbs and his dad, Larry, were beaming when they boarded a Metro Liner at Warner Center for the trip to North Hollywood. Sammy had collected a cap and a bag of souvenirs to show his friends.

Reseda station, liked the bus and the scenery along the route. She expects to ride the Orange Line to work and for shopping.

The women's interest in the new service wouldn't have surprised Operator **Rudolfo Mejia Morataya**. As he drove an eastbound run, the Division 8 extra-board operator said, "Most people love it because they can get to their destinations faster. They're very excited about it."

### 'A great success'

Arnold Kay of Valley Village brought his friend, Westwood resident Jerry Richbrook, along for the ride. Kay had watched the 14-mile line being built. "I think it's terrific and will be a great success." He plans to ride the Orange Line to take his wife shopping in the West Valley.

At Warner Center, visitors crowded dozens of souvenir and information booths, including that of City Councilman Dennis Zine, where District Director Michael Besem was getting reactions from residents.

"A lot of people say they'll use the Orange Line for entertainment purposes, more so than just to commute," he said. "They talked about going to the Pantages, going downtown for a show or to the Hollywood Bowl. That surprised me."

Over at the Metro booth, Senior Community Relations Officer **Devon Cichoski** was pleased with the public turnout. She has worked on the Metro Orange Line project for three years and was seeing it come to fruition.

"Along the way, a lot of people doubted whether anyone would ride the Orange Line," she said, "but the turnout, today, shows that the community is excited and that people are going to use it."

Just at that moment, a resident of Warner Center came up to tell Cichoski that she has important meetings downtown every day this week. She asked where she could buy a weekly pass. "That's exactly what we want people to do," said a beaming Cichoski.



After three long years of work, Senior Community Relations Officer Devon Cichoski was delighted with the turnout during the public opening.



Mike Perococo of Van Nuys folds a paper bus model for his daughter, Leila, who's proud to be almost 4 years old.



Elaine Irvine of Van Nuys, left, and her friends, Sheri Hooper and Kathleen Brown came out for a day of fun on the Metro Orange Line.



## Warner Center rideshare

Adding emphasis to that point was Marcia Charnas, who coordinates the rideshare program for some 300 employees of Zenith Insurance Co. Her company also belongs to a larger group of Warner Center employers that, according to Metro Rideshare Supervisor **Sara Zadok**, has perhaps 10,000 employees in rideshare programs.

"They're very excited about the Orange Line," said Charnas. "They can get to work more cheaply in the comfort of these beautiful new buses than by driving."



Marcia Charnas, left, employee transportation coordinator for Zenith Insurance, and Metro Rideshare Accounts Supervisor Sara Zadok met at the Warner Center celebration. With Charnas are her retired racing greyhounds Beauty and Katie.

Mike Perococo, who now lives a block from the Woodman station in Van Nuys, figures he can commute to his new job via Orange Line. A former New Yorker, he's used to "fast commuting. I think it's good for the Valley, good for the community and it's obviously good for the environment."

His daughter, Leila, almost 4 years old, was excited about coming out for a ride on the big buses. Father and daughter expect to make the Orange Line a frequent weekend adventure.



Taking a moment for a quick bite of lunch are, from left, Metro's Anna Mercaldi, Ron Jue, Alicia Morales Rodriguez, Devon Cichoski and Dave Hershenson.

More than 500 Metro employees were deployed at the 13 stations helping customers and the curious make big adventure of the opening days.

## 'Doing crowd control'

Division 1 Transportation Manager **Cindy Karpman** was the station manager at the Balboa station. Her crew included personnel from divisions 5 and 7 and the Regional Rebuild Center. "We're doing crowd control; trying to keep everything organized to help people get on and off the bus safely."

Gateway Building Services Manager **Brian Soto** was getting "very positive comments" from riders, who also were interested in the pedestrian walkways and



the unique stations.

Human Resources Supervisor **Scott Lloyd**, Warner Center station manager, found that riders loved the buses, especially "Kids love it, they're having a blast."

At the Metro booth selling commemorative Metro Orange Line T-shirts, lapel pins and posters, **April McKay**, director of Customer Programs and Services, said the \$10 T-shirts were the most popular item.

Operator **Miguel Monjaraz** interviewed on an eastbound run, said, "It's very nice to see so many people. It's a great new experience and I'm happy to be here and enjoy it."

Stock Clerk **Santos Carrillo**, who started his volunteer shift at 5:30 a.m. found some people already standing in line. One fellow told him he's giving up his personal car to use Metro.

### **Surprise his girlfriend**

**Bill Douglas**, a senior risk analyst who's been with Metro for two months, had to laugh when a rider who lives near the Balboa station told him he was headed over to his girlfriend's house to surprise her.

Assistant Transportation Manager **George Trudeau**, who was responsible for coordinating the bus operation for the weekend event, was pleased with the way things were going. "This has turned out to be way better than we thought it'd be. The operator training has paid off. Nothing but great comments!"

**Robert Torres**, corporate health and safety manager, was checking the safe flow of passengers at the stations and making sure signals and signage were being observed. "So far," he said, "Everything looks good, no major incidents."

Assistant Transportation Manager **Derick Mahome**, helping direct operations at the North Hollywood station, looked at a line of riders that stretched from the boarding area all the way around the plaza and out of sight behind a building.

Buses were being loaded about every 3 minutes, but he estimated a wait of 45 minutes or so. "It's a lot more people than we expected, but it's been really successful today," he said. "Everybody's been doing what they can to make it work well."

**Sheriff's Lt. Pat Jordan** dropped by the North Hollywood station to check on the 40- to 50-member contingent of deputies and 10 Explorers assigned to opening weekend duties.

### **'A good test'**

"It's mostly visibility and crowd control today," Jordan said. "This is a good test for how it's going to run on a day-to-day basis for traffic and for the numbers of people who will be on the buses."

A normal day will see six Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau patrol cars in circulation, along with two motorcycle deputies and deputies deployed to the stations. They'll be augmented by fare inspectors.

Jordan was particularly pleased with the Sheriff's Volunteer Posse. "They have a definite mission patrolling the Orange Line and they're a big hit with the kids."

Library Archivist **Jim Walker**, a Los Angeles transit historian and author, was on

volunteer duty at the Laurel Canyon station. Looking at interest in the Orange Line, he believes it will foster development in the Valley.

Deputy CEO John Catoe talks with a passenger at the North Hollywood station.



"It's evidence that, if you build transportation, they will come," he said. "People want to live where transportation is."

Deputy CEO **John Catoe**, who had been aboard at least 10 Metro Liners by noon, Saturday, said the public turnout "is exceeding our expectations. I've talked to many people who said they haven't been on a bus in a decade, but they're going to try the system going to work Monday morning. I think it's an overwhelming success for transit, for the Valley and for Los Angeles."

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

[<back to myMetro.net homepage](#)



Scenes from a Metro Halloween  
Photos by Peter Watkinson  
11/1/2005







[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](#)



## Employee Craft Fair is Tuesday, Nov. 8

- From candlestick makers to gift baskets, handcrafted ware of 35 expert artisans will deck the Plaza and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor lobbies of Gateway Building with seasonal cheer.

(Nov. 4, 2005) Back by popular demand, the annual employee crafts fair is gearing up for its seasonal appearance, when 35 vendors will line the Third Floor and Plaza lobbies of the Gateway Building, Tuesday, with a cornucopia of hand-crafted items, reports event coordinator Donna Deverell.

“We’re filling up the Plaza level lobby as well as the third floor,” said Deverell, “There are so many participants, we even had to start a waiting list.”

The waiting list marks a strong comeback for the once-biennial crafts fair. The first crafts fair was held in 1992, shortly after the Gateway Building opened. For the next few years, spring fever and autumn harvest brought crafters from different departments and divisions together for anticipated and colorful bazaars held in the third floor lobby. The fair was not held last year, but filled two lobbies in 2003.

This year’s cornucopia of hand-crafted items include candles and incense, Native American dream-catchers , handknit baby blankets, photo albums, handcrafted covers, hand-sewn baby clothes, jewelry, gift baskets, table runners/pillows, button pins and boxes, jewelry, framed vintage postcards, Christmas tableware, seasonal items and so much more.

New this year: Signed copies of a new novel by Division 7 TOS Paul Alleyn, “Whatever it Takes,” and the musical wizardry of Ron Hoover (ITS) on CDs.



[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](#)

## Division 18 Staff Sets Fundraiser for Cancer Society, Katrina Relief

- Dance party proceeds will go to the causes

By RICH MORALLO

(Nov. 4, 2005) Metro staff, families, guests and the public will enjoy an evening of music and dancing to raise funds for the American Cancer Society and the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts on Saturday, Nov. 12.

"We're organizing a DJ dance party with the proceeds going to these two good causes and everyone is welcome" said Cheryl Brown, an assistant transportation manager at Carson Division 18.

The fundraiser will be held at ZITA Italian Trattoria and Bar located at 825 James M Wood Blvd (West 9th Street), one block north of the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles.

"There will be dancing to a mix of Soul, R&B and Oldies music, and authentic Italian appetizers will be served," said Brown. The event will be held from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. and the tickets cost \$20.

"The funds will go toward buying toys for the children of evacuee families that have had to relocate to Los Angeles," said Brown.

### Cash and sick time donations

Over the past two months South Bay staff members from both Carson Division and Arthur Winston Division 5 have donated cash and sick time hours for families who have fled the New Orleans area in the aftermath of the hurricanes.

"One Carson Division staff member gave \$500 and another donated 200 hours," said operator Tonya Isaac.

Isaac said other staff members plan to support the evacuees with cooked meals at the Dream Center in Los Angeles, where some families reside.

Rochelle Wilson, a service attendant at Division 5, hosted a bake sale. "I wasn't able to travel to New Orleans to help so I sold brownies and cakes to raise funds for the evacuees."



"Additionally, with the DJ dance party we want to celebrate our health and lives of those close to us who have been affected by cancer," Brown said. The idea of hosting the dance party came after talking to close friends with family members who have faced cancer.

For more information, contact Brown at 310-780-8212.

---

| [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](#)

Corporate Safety to Provide Low-cost Flu Shots

- Bring your family> Metro employees may offer low-cost influenza immunizations to spouses, family.
- [Download, print consent form:](#) Bring completed form to clinic.
- First-come, first served. No reservations are necessary.

Low-cost flu immunization shots will be offered to Metro employees Nov. 9, Wednesday, at the Gateway Building. The immunization shots will be given from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Union Station Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the Gateway Building.

The fee is \$20 cash; no checks or credit cards will be accepted. The shots will be given on first-come, first served basis; no reservations are necessary.

The program is sponsored by Corporate Safety, which is providing the services of a medical care group, Passport Health, to administer the immunization program.

Passport Health is a nationwide provider of low-cost immunizations to businesses and travelers, with offices in Los Angeles.

For more information, call Eddy Boghossian, Corporate Safety, 922-2115.

[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](#)

## Historic Safes Served Metro and Predecessor Agencies Since 1911



Gail Edwards, an assistant financial analyst in the Treasury Dept., takes a last look at two safes in use by Metro and its predecessor agencies since at least 1911 when they belonged to the Los Angeles Railway.

Until last month, the safes were used to secure cash and checks, daily deposits and payroll records. Over a weekend, they were moved from their specially reinforced location on the 21st floor to be replaced by a newer – and certainly less historic and ornamented – unit. The old safes have now been placed in storage for possible future sale. (Nov. 4, 2005)



Manufactured in Cincinnati in April, 1906, the safes are decorated with federal eagles, lilies and gold leaf borders.







[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](#)

Paramedics set up triage area along the Metro Orange Line alignment to examine passengers jostled in collision near the Woodman Station.



Photos by Dave Sotero

## Added Precautions Bolster Safety Measures on Metro Orange Line as Accidents Mar Transitway's Opening Week

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Nov. 4, 2005) - Added precautions are bolstering already stringent safety measures on the new Metro Orange Line after two collisions between cars and 60-ft MetroLiner buses at traffic-jammed intersections of the alignment Wednesday.

Within minutes of the first accident, which occurred shortly after 11 a.m. west of the Tampa Station, Metro San Fernando Valley General Manager Richard Hunt issued an order for all Orange Line bus operators to increase caution and reduce speed at intersections. Buses now slow to 10 mph when approaching green lights at intersections.

As day broke on Thursday, the fourth day of operation of the 14-mile transitway, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, board chairman, dispatched teams of traffic officers to 12 intersections to help drivers take heed of traffic regulations, such as speed restrictions, stop signs and responsible awareness of traffic conditions.

The traffic officers are stationed at the intersections of Burbank and Fulton, woodman and Oxnard, Woodley, Balboa, White Oak avenue, Lindley, Reseda, Wilbur, Tampa, Corbin, Mason and DeSoto from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays for at least two weeks.



Car that struck Metro Liner bus is towed from the accident scene on Woodman.

Meanwhile, Councilwoman Wendy Greuel called an emergency meeting of the safety task force, a committee made up of representatives of Metro, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept., the Los Angeles Police Department and LADOT city traffic engineers and convened by Mayor Villaraigosa the week before the Orange Line opened to the public.

"Everything is on the table," said CEO Roger Snoble, including calls for installation of crossing guards and consideration of innovative warning systems, such as adapting the 60-ft buses with strobe lights.

Officials discussed installing additional signage, flashing lights, and stepping up security and other measures.

"We have a safe transitway operation, but we're looking at ways to increase the safety measures on three fronts - education, engineering and enforcement," said Snoble.

In terms of education, the on-site school and community meetings conducted by Customer Relations and the print collateral of brochures and advertising will be bolstered by public service announcements featuring Mayor Villaraigosa.

The Los Angeles Times reported seventeen people injured in the two collisions on Wednesday. Both accidents involved motorists reportedly running red lights. The more serious collision Wednesday occurred shortly after 2 p.m., at Woodman Avenue and Oxnard Street just west of the Woodman Station. A 78-year-old woman driving south on Woodman — who, witnesses told police, was talking on a cellphone — ran a red light and crashed into the midsection of a bus, spun around and struck the bus again.



Damage to the Metro Liner from collision on Woodman and Oxnard was minor. Photo above shows scrape on wheel well caused by the second impact of the collision.

Fourteen aboard the bus were taken to hospitals with minor injuries, the Times reported. The driver of the car, transported to the hospital in critical condition, is now listed in fair condition.

Orange Line service was not disrupted by the accidents, only slightly delayed when buses were rerouted to nearby city streets from approximately 2 p.m. to when the accident scene cleared shortly before 5 p.m.

The first crash occurred shortly after 11 a.m., at Corbin Avenue, which intersects the alignment at Topham Street west of the Tampa Station. Two people — the motorist and a fare inspector on the bus — were taken to hospitals with minor injuries, police said.

Witnesses told police that the motorist, a 65-year-old woman, was making a right turn through a red light.

The posted speed limit at the intersection is 35 mph for buses and cars, although bus operators were directed to pass through intersections cautiously and maintain ability the brake quickly. The 24-ton buses, which are fully equipped with a disc brake system, are able to stop even faster than the lighter 40-foot bus, said Snoble.

Ridership, initially estimated to approach 7,000 on weekdays, soared to over 10,000 on Monday, and climbed past 11,000 on Tuesday and Wednesday. On site reports from Thursday morning show the Orange Line is maintaining high ridership numbers. At this time, said Hunt, Wednesday's accidents have had no reported impact on ridership.



[Metro.net](#) (web)**Resources**[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[CEO Hotline](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)  
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/  
Library](#)[Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Retirement  
Round-up](#)**Metro Info**[Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)[Org Chart](#) (pdf)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)**Need e-Help?**

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

[E-Mail Webmaster](#)

Members of the *Multi-Talented Advocates of Knitting*, aka *MTA OKs*, meet every Tuesday to practice the ancient art of knitting. Front row from left: Deidra Gray, Suzanne Schmutzler, Kathleen Sweet, Linda Wasley and Gail Edwards. Back row from left: Donna Lee Watson, Cynthia Shavers, Avis Brame, Sandra Sandoval, Monika Suarez and Fe Alcid-Little.



## Multi-talented Advocates of Knitting Join Forces at Metro

By Shantay Iosia

(Nov. 5, 2005) Metro helps maintain a fading art, one Tuesday at a time.

Needle artists of varying ability meet in the Imperial conference room on the 12th floor to knit or crochet every Tuesday.

The group calls themselves the "MTA OK" (Multi-Talented Advocates of Knitting) and most say they attend because they find the ancient practice challenging yet relaxing.

The instructor, Suzanne Schmutzler, says the class offers a friendly atmosphere where people feel comfortable and are encouraged to learn.

Schmutzler provides projects for people of all levels. Newcomers with no experience can expect to

PHOTOS: SHANTAY IOSIA



Metro's Deidra Gray knits a shawl using novelty yarn.

learn four techniques before advancing: cast on, knit stitch, purl stitch and cast off.

Schmutzler supplies assignments to practice these techniques and the rest is up to the student.

"Most come with something they want to do already in mind," she says. "We're here to help find a direction and to offer encouragement."

Throughout the room, some admired the progress of various projects and shared their visions of their unfinished pieces while others exchanged knitting patterns and household gripes.

Metro's Monika Suarez began knitting earlier this year. She attended the class with a ball of yarn and needles but no previous experience.

"I knew nothing," she says. "It was something my grandmother had done that I always wanted to do."

*MTA OKer* Linda Wasley is also a new learner and says that although she is not as good as many others, she finds the class very rewarding.

"When I'm working with the needles I really feel a sense of history and heritage. I think of all the millions of hours spent knitting when they didn't have Target or Wal-Mart," she says. "I know that if this were the 1800s my family would be naked and starving."

Knitters who have become more confident have ventured into competition for awards at the L.A. County Fair. *MTA Okers* Sandra Sandoval and Avis Brame have received two red ribbons for second place, two white for third place and one fourth place ribbon, leading the way for others to try their skills.

Brame says she started knitting inconsistently since she was about 8.

#### **Knitting Tip of the Day:**

Knitting socks can be very challenging and time consuming. Schmutzler recommends starting both socks at the same time. By doing this you are able to learn a technique and reinforce what you've learned by doing it on the second sock. It provides better consistency and eliminates the mental exhaustion of starting the entire process again after you've finished the first.

She says she doesn't have much time outside of work to knit but enjoys the time she spends with the group. She has even found a few knitters on her commuter train. They've begun a little circle of commuting knitters and have been nicknamed the "Happy Hookers."

For more information or to be added to the mailing list contact Avis Brame > [bramea@metro.net](mailto:bramea@metro.net)

---

| [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's Diego Cardoso, third from left, during the City Council confirmation of Planning Commission appointments.



• **Metro's Diego Cardoso Named to City Planning Commission**

**Diego Cardoso**, Metro's director of Regional Transportation Planning, Central Area Team, has been appointed to the nine-member City of Los Angeles Planning Commission. Named to the commission by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, his appointment was confirmed, Nov. 2, by the City Council. As a member of the Planning Commission, Cardoso will review and make recommendations on all city wide land use planning initiatives and individual land-use cases, including commercial and residential developments. His first meeting with the commission is set for Nov. 10. Cardoso previously served on the five-member City Housing Authority as an appointee of former Mayor Richard Riordan.







[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](#)

## Court Date Set for Former Bus Operator Charged with Insurance Fraud

By PAM MURANO

(Nov. 8, 2005) Former Metro Bus Operator Demita Carter is scheduled to appear in Los Angeles Superior Court, Dec. 5. She is charged with two counts of insurance fraud and one count of presenting a fraudulent claim.

Arrested Nov. 1, Carter was booked at Century Station Jail where bail was set at \$30,000. She was arraigned Nov. 2 and pleaded not guilty.

According to investigators, Carter told witnesses the day before a disciplinary hearing that she could not be terminated if she was off on Workers' Compensation Leave.

As she entered the hearing room for her disciplinary hearing, she allegedly pretended to trip over the foot of an attendee in the hearing room and claimed an injury to her leg.

Witnesses told investigators that Carter did not actually trip and fall and that she had previously told them that she intended to file a Workers' Compensation claim to avoid termination on the disciplinary issue. Carter was terminated following the hearing.

Although the warrant for Carter's arrest was issued Aug. 2, the Department of Insurance had been unable to locate her to serve the warrant.

Metro's Special Investigations Unit investigators located her new address and place of employment. Transit Services Bureau detectives served the warrant and made the arrest.



- [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](#)

## Court Date Set for Former Bus Operator Charged with Insurance Fraud

By PAM MURANO

(Nov. 8, 2005) Former Metro Bus Operator Demita Carter is scheduled to appear in Los Angeles Superior Court, Dec. 5. She is charged with two counts of insurance fraud and one count of presenting a fraudulent claim.

Arrested Nov. 1, Carter was booked at Century Station Jail where bail was set at \$30,000. She was arraigned Nov. 2 and pleaded not guilty.

According to investigators, Carter told witnesses the day before a disciplinary hearing that she could not be terminated if she was off on Workers' Compensation Leave.

As she entered the hearing room for her disciplinary hearing, she allegedly pretended to trip over the foot of an attendee in the hearing room and claimed an injury to her leg.

Witnesses told investigators that Carter did not actually trip and fall and that she had previously told them that she intended to file a Workers' Compensation claim to avoid termination on the disciplinary issue. Carter was terminated following the hearing.

Although the warrant for Carter's arrest was issued Aug. 2, the Department of Insurance had been unable to locate her to serve the warrant.

Metro's Special Investigations Unit investigators located her new address and place of employment. Transit Services Bureau detectives served the warrant and made the arrest.



[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](#)

## Works of Three Local Muralists to Honor Boyle Heights, East LA

- Murals will be seen on Eastside Extension construction fences

(Nov. 9, 2005) Metro Art has commissioned three local artists to paint murals on large-scale construction fences at key intersections of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project.

The original artworks will depict various aspects of the community, turning a functional and mundane neighborhood barrier into a neighborhood-specific artwork. The visuals, painted on wood walls more than 20 feet high and hundreds of feet long, will be completed by the end of 2006.

Metro Art sent a Call to Artists to 5,000 artists and art organizations. A panel of mural experts reviewed 22 applications and chose three artists – Charles Freeman (Brother Boko), Man One and Paul Botello.

Freeman's two-wall design, entitled "Know Thy Self," is located at First Street and Lorena Avenue. It includes images of the Native American Chumash, Tongva and Kumeyay peoples. Additional images include Mother Earth, Mayan and Aztec cultural icons, and a girl who is discovering them through reading.

"With the idea that if you know where you came from you'll know where you are going, I wanted to create a work that was about site specificity and learning," says Freeman.

### Family, faith, work and history

The "Four Pillars," by Man One, will be located at First and Soto streets. The artist chose four elements: family, faith, work, and history, to represent the spirit of the East Los Angeles community.

Two walls in English (faith and history) and two in Spanish (trabajo and familia) reflect the area's spoken languages. The lettering, in bold and colorful urban art style, makes it relevant to the youth who will view the walls on a daily basis.

Of the four elements he illustrates, Man One says, "Work is the most vital because it literally creates the house you live in and creates pride in the members of the community as well as the commerce that drives everyday life."

Paul Botello's "Global Los Angeles, A & B" will be seen on two construction walls located at First Street and Boyle Avenue.

The central image of both murals is an abstract version of the City of Los Angeles. It is also a geometric sunburst. The mural images are based on historical information about Boyle Heights.

"These spheres are symbols that represent individual worlds, globes of culture and history," says Botello. "These worlds also represent the different people and ethnicities that make up this specific Boyle Heights community."

---

| [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](#)



**Craft Fair Extraordinaire**

Some 33 craftsmen and women filled two lobbies of the Gateway Building Wednesday with a cornucopia of gifts and seasonal fare for a plentitude of Metro shoppers. Among them, clockwise, from top, arrangements by Dina Garcia of Dina's Florals & More, beaded chains designed to hold employee badges by Sharleen Yoshimi and Melissa Rosen, jewelry by Gloria Anderson and candleworks by Rose Morales.






[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

# Successful Orange Line Opening: Congratulations and Thank You!

By CEO ROGER SNOBLE



CEO Roger Snoble

Congratulations to all of you who contributed to the success of the Metro Orange Line grand opening.

It was the culmination of a true team effort for many years across all departments; and it's clear from the public's enthusiastic reaction that this line will change the way a lot of people think about public transportation, not only in the San Fernando Valley, but throughout LA County.

No matter what your role was, you can be proud of being on the team that brought the Orange Line to life. I know I am. So, congratulations and thanks again for your great work!

The grand opening events certainly set the tone for the new line, and look at what's happened since. Daily boardings in the first week – 10,000 to 11,000 each day. On Saturday, Nov. 5, we estimated 8,500 to 9,000 boardings and on the following Monday, an estimated 9,000.

San Fernando Valley General Manager Richard Hunt met a Disney executive who had boarded the Orange Line at Warner Center. At North Hollywood, he jumped on the new Burbank Shuttle, which let him off right in front of his office building. He said he may never drive to work again.

## Word-of-mouth endorsement

That's one example of many stories we're hearing from our new Orange Line patrons. And it's exactly the sort of word-of-mouth endorsement that will help build ridership, not just on the Orange Line, but for the entire transit system.

Even the unfortunate accidents last Wednesday, one of which drew extensive media coverage, didn't seem to dampen enthusiasm for the new line. I am proud that Mayor Villaraigosa, Councilwoman Greuel, Supervisor Yaroslavsky and others not only defended the Orange Line, but also are working to further ensure public safety.

While we're basking in the glow of the successful Orange Line opening, we continue to move forward with the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. Important milestones, such as placement of the twin tunnel

boring machines, are coming up soon.

We're moving ahead on planning for the Exposition Line to Culver City and we just had word from the panel of tunneling experts that it is feasible and safe to build and operate a subway extension on Wilshire Boulevard reaching beyond Western Avenue.

Exciting times ahead. Hold on to your hat!

---

November 9, 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](#)

## Division 10 Maintenance Team Sets 450-Day Safety Record

By REINA V. SLUTSKE

(Nov. 10, 2005) Time is a terrible thing to lose, and it's fortunate that Gateway Division 10's maintenance team hasn't lost a bit.

As of the first week of November, Division 10 now holds a record of 450 days without a lost-time injury – which means that no one had to miss work due to injury on the job.

"[It's a] heck of an accomplishment, considering the environment they work in," said Richard Long, senior safety specialist in the Westside/Central Service Sector. "To have a safety record like that is pretty incredible."

According to Maintenance Manager Frank Lonyai, employees are aware that they work in a hazardous environment.

### 'Dynamic environment'

Division 10 is Metro's largest division and a "dynamic environment," according to Lonyai.

The division's Employee Advisory Committee, which meets once a month, gives employees a forum for their concerns, including safety, which are about half of the issues.

"Since we meet every month, it's a better opportunity for feedback," said Lonyai. The committee is adding additional features and members want employees to bring up issues.

"They're very astute, very conscientious," Lonyai said of Division 10's maintenance team. "It all boils down to the employees."



[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](#)

**On the Job:** Senior Security Officer Henry Solis and General Grant, Metro's new bomb dog.



Senior Security Officer Henry Solis and his bomb dog, General Grant, recently completed their training course and are on the job patrolling the Metro Red Line. The new team joins Security Officer Gustavo Lozano and his dog, Napoleon, on the Metro Security force.

[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 served in the military joined in the annual Veterans Day celebration.  
*Photos by Jimmy Stroup*



## Metro's Military Veterans Celebrate in Style at Division 9

- Thoughts for this day: ["What the Flag Means to Me"](#) an essay by Alexandra Lozano

By JIMMY STROUP

(Nov. 10, 2005) Employees from all walks of Metro life turned out for a Veteran's Day celebration, Thursday, at San Gabriel Valley Division 9.

The hour-long ceremony included an Air Force Color Guard, speakers and a slide show presentation honoring the military.

Division 9 Maintenance Manager John McBryan, himself a Marine Corps veteran, spearheaded the annual salute. The ceremony was doubly meaningful this year—the Marine Corps celebrates its 230th birthday on Nov. 10.

"I know you see all this Marine Corps stuff up here," he said, "and maybe we're a little prejudiced...."

Though Marine vets were most represented among the 45 or so attendees, some Navy, Army and Air Force vets showed up to celebrate,



Metro Procurement Chief Lonnie Mitchell, a retired U.S. Navy captain, speaks about the meaning of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



too.

**Ceremony highlights**

They included Lonnie Mitchell, a retired U.S. Navy captain, now Metro executive officer of Procurement and Material Management, who spoke about the significance of the servicemen who have guarded the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier continuously since 1930.

“My remarks are not about the Tomb itself,” he said, “but the soldiers who guard it. They represent us all.”

Another feature was an essay titled “What the Flag Means to Me” written by Alexandra Lozano and read by her uncle, Division 2 Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Alfred Lozano.

Written in 1997, Lozano won first prize in the student essay contest at her school, Vine Elementary, as well as capturing top honors at the West Covina School District’s contest.

After the slide show, set to “Tears in Heaven” by Eric Clapton, McBryan cut the cake with a large cake “knife”—a Marine Corps sword—and the veterans gathered for a photo.

The Color Guard was provided by Los Angeles Air Force Base.

A U.S. Air Force color guard, led by 1st Lt. Jayson Giffen, third from left, presented the colors at the Veterans Day event. [<back to top](#)



**What the Flag Means to Me**  
by Alexandra Lozano

The flag to me means a lot of things. To me it means daily freedom and liberty. It also means to me faith and courage that people (especially soldiers) have in the flag during a war. To me the flag means honesty and truth that everyone should have.

The flag also means to me justice, innocence, and independence. It stands also for purity and love. The flag means a whole lot of things to me. It's a wonderful sight to see the flag on the fourth of July being raised and admired, as well as on Veteran's Day. To me the flag seems to mean peace.

To me the flag means happiness and joy. It reminds me of all the people who sacrificed their lives for my freedom. It reminds me of all the people who fought to make my country better.

The flag reminds me to trust and care for people. People of all race, color, and sex no matter what. Yes, the flag means a lot to me. The flag reminds me of my grandfather, Alfredo Lozano, Sr. He fought during the Korean War and World War II. He earned himself two Purple Hearts. Yes, this brave soldier had courage.

When I see the stars and stripes on the flag it makes me feel proud. It makes me feel proud because I live in this country.

To me the flag means a lot more than words can say. The flag is more than just a piece of different colored cloth with stars and stripes. It is a piece of cloth honored by everyone in this country everyday.

The flag represents peace, liberty, freedom, faith, courage, love, justice, honor, purity, innocence, honesty, truth and last but not least independence. Our flag has integrity. This is what the flag means to me.

[<back to 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](#)

## Downtown Rail Connector, Cleaner Bus Shelters Among Items on Committee Agendas

- [Item 7.](#) Regional Rail Connector.
- [Item 27.](#) Bus Shelter Maintenance.
- [Item 29.](#) Upgrade SCADA Equipment.
- [Item 35.](#) Program \$618 Million.

(Nov. 15, 2005) Board committees will take up a range of topics at their meetings, this week, that include a possible downtown connector for the Metro Blue and Gold Lines, cleaner bus shelters, an upgrade for subway control equipment and the disposition of \$618 million in state and federal funds.

### Board Committee Meetings

- **Wednesday, Nov. 16**  
Planning and Programming, 1 p.m.  
Finance and Budget, 2:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, Nov. 17**  
Executive Management and Audit, 9 a.m.  
Construction, 10:30 a.m.  
Operations, 12 Noon

### Item 7, Regional Rail Connector.

Planning, designing and building a rail line through downtown Los Angeles to connect the Metro Blue and Gold Lines would cost between \$120 million and \$250 million, or more, and would take seven to nine years, according to a staff report to the Planning and Programming and the Executive Management and Audit committees.

Although more study needs to be done, previous studies focused on various ways to build a light-rail line from 7th and Metro station that could include "at-grade" tracks and "street running," but no specific alignment was recommended. However, a fully underground alignment was not considered financially practical, the report says.

In September, the Board directed the staff to submit a more comprehensive report, no later than December 2005, that includes the impact of the connector on current ridership, provides an implementation timeline and costs, and indicates possible funding sources.

**Item 27, Bus Shelter Maintenance.** At the Operations Committee meeting in August, Councilman Bernard Parks directed the Metro staff to "develop a protocol requiring bus operators to monitor bus stop conditions and report broken and/or soiled bus benches."

In a motion to be considered this month by the Operations Committee, Parks notes that, although Metro doesn't own or have jurisdiction over most bus stops, "it is important that safe and clean facilities are

provided for Metro riders.” The motion calls for “more aggressive measures” to keep bus stops, benches and shelters clean and protected from vandalism.

The motion would direct the staff to “bring together all agencies” responsible for bus shelters to discuss a model shelter design, a strategy to provide shelters at all bus stops and a “comprehensive rehabilitation and maintenance protocol.”

Parks’ motion also directs the staff to provide a status report on the South Bay Service Sector’s “See it, Report it” program and plans to implement the program agency-wide as soon as possible. The South Bay program encourages bus operators and field staff to file reports identifying shelters that need cleaning or other work.

**Item 29, Upgrade SCADA Equipment.** The Operations Committee will consider a motion awarding a \$1.34 million contract to an Annapolis, Md., company to replace remote units that help control the movement, and report the status, of Metro Red Line trains in Segment 1, which opened in 1993.

The Remote Terminal Units (RTUs) are part of the SCADA automated train control system used throughout the subway system. The new RTUs will replace outdated equipment at Union Station; Civic Center; Pershing Square; 7th and Metro; and Westlake/MacArthur stations; at the Rail Operations Center and at the Metro Red Line yard.

**Item 35, Program \$618 Million.** The Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to program \$618 million in state and federal funds.

Among the provisions of the motion, a sum of \$608 million would be slated for highway and transit capital improvement and support. Another \$10 million would be used as back-up funding to “leverage” up to \$19 million in unused federal appropriations for countywide transit projects. The motion also would reauthorize \$68.7 million advance of Metro’s 17 percent contribution to the Alameda Corridor East Phase II project.

[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 Antonio Villaraigosa urges transportation advocates attending fourth annual Mobility 21 summit to "work together as a region to secure funding." Joining him at the speakers' podium are, from left, CEO Roger Snoble, Long Beach Councilwoman Bonnie Lowenthal, Los Angeles Area of Commerce Executive Vice President Ron Gastelum and Los Angeles City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel.



PHOTO: JUAN OCAMPO

## Mobility 21 Plans to Expand Transportation Advocacy Role

- Regional coalition to include neighboring counties in 2006
- [Read>](#) Mobility 21 Proposes Broad Range of Recommendations

(Nov. 15, 2005) The Mobility 21 Coalition plans to take a broader role in 2006 by joining forces with transportation advocates in neighboring counties to seek state and federal funding for the region.

Several speakers mentioned the need for the Coalition to assume a wider role in Southern California during remarks, Monday, at the 4th annual Mobility 21 Transportation Summit in Long Beach.

The Coalition, which was successful this year in preventing Proposition 42 funds from being siphoned off to plug a state budget deficit, has lobbied extensively at the state and federal levels for additional funding for transportation projects.



In welcoming remarks, CEO Roger Snoble said Mobility 21 advocates helped preserve state funding for transportation.

"Sacramento and Washington have a vested interest in helping us improve our highways, rail lines, airports and public transportation, because mobility is the linchpin of the economy, and our economy powers California and the nation," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, "But, we also need to help ourselves by finding creative local financing (and) working together as a region to secure funding."

"We need to remain dedicated to keeping that money in the region."

"Mobility 21: LA County Moving Together" was sponsored by Metro and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Automobile Club of Southern California.

Rusty Hammer, Chamber president and CEO – who will be leaving his post in the next several month due to health reasons – recommended bolstering the Mobility 21 organization by obtaining long-term funding and hiring full-time staff.

### A regional role

Speaking via video, he said the organization plans to take on a more regional role in 2006 by partnering with transportation advocates in neighboring counties, noting that "our transportation problems do not stop and start at the LA County border."

Hammer's statement was echoed by Ron Gastelum, the Chamber's executive vice president and by Dan Beal, Auto Club director of public policy, who said, "We're very encouraged that Mobility 21 is going to take the direction of increasing regionally and increasing its resources to be even more effective...."



Ron Gastelum, executive vice president of the LA Area Chamber of Commerce was among those calling for Mobility 21 to take a regional role and include neighboring counties in transportation advocacy efforts.

Keynote speaker Leon Panetta, former California congressman and President Clinton's chief of staff, also called for a unified approach in Washington, "You absolutely have to unify. You can't just do it hit or miss."

PHOTO: JUAN OCAMPO

Keynote speaker Leon Panetta, former California congressman and President Clinton's chief of staff, also called for a unified approach in Washington.



Speakers noted that at the federal level, Mobility 21 was instrumental in helping secure an estimated \$4.5 billion in funding for highway and

transit programs and projects that include carpool lanes, traffic upgrades, rail line extensions, and other highway and street improvements.

However, there still remains a significant gap between what Los Angeles taxpayers contribute to the state and federal governments and what the county gets back in transportation funding resources.

"For every tax dollar we send to Washington, less than 92 cents comes back to us to invest in our transportation infrastructure. That just doesn't add up," said Hammer.

Despite the fact that the Mobility 21 lobbying coalition helped to preserve Proposition 42 transportation funds, it is anticipated that the legislature will consider using the funds again next year to balance the budget.

### **'Major challenges ahead'**

"We know that major challenges are still ahead on the mobility front," said CEO Roger Snoble, "...we need to maintain a unified effort if we are to reach our goal of eliminating traffic congestion."

Even with the preservation of state transportation funds this year, the region is already facing new challenges, according to Beal of the Auto Club.

"The bad news is that skyrocketing construction costs are eroding much of the benefit from Proposition 42," he said. "We need to permanently protect Proposition 42 funds, and we will need creative solutions to ensure that vital transportation projects are not further delayed by these cost increases."

The focus of the summit included a panel discussion on creative financing options to improve congestion, as well as sessions on transportation and its role in the global economy, transportation and quality of life in Los Angeles, and homeland security.

Speakers included Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill and U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Maria Cino.



[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](#)[<Back](#) to Mobility 21 article

Transportation advocates develop recommendations to improve the region at well-attended breakout sessions.



PHOTO: JUAN OCAMPO

## Mobility 21 Proposes Broad Range of Recommendations

(Nov. 15, 2005) Expanding the Mobility 21 Coalition, developing the region's quality of life and better matching Homeland Security funding to needs were among the recommendations approved at Monday's transportation summit in Long Beach.

The recommendations, presented from the summit's breakout sessions were:

### Transportation and the economy

- Broaden the bi-partisan Mobility 21 Coalition to increase awareness about the economic importance of goods movement throughout the region, and the critical role transportation plays in the regional economy and quality of life. Focus the Coalition on the next generation of jobs and transportation infrastructure needed to grow a more sustainable, vibrant economy.
- Develop new state and federal transportation legislation so public-private partnerships can build, fund and secure the transportation system. Focus public-private transportation infrastructure partnerships to facilitate timely movement of goods and people to increase the region's opportunities, economic competitiveness and overall quality of life.

### Quality of Life

- Develop a Quality of Life Index that reflects a contextual shift in the paradigm of decision-making for major transportation corridor studies and infrastructure investments. Minimum indicators would include environment, equity and economy as key indicators for determining the value of proposed improvements and investments.

- Develop indicators that measure the quality of participation, process and education in public outreach and education programs associated with major transportation corridor studies. Use these indicators to establish a threshold for community-based support.

**Homeland Security**

- Allocation of funds must be based on strategic needs and not fixed allocations to states.
- Risk assessment of transportation projects justifies the use of homeland security funds for major infrastructure projects (i.e. the I-710 Freeway and port improvements).
- Reduce red tape within the Department of Homeland Security so that small companies can effectively complete for funding.... DHS needs to incorporate strong incentives in procurement language that encourages big companies to partner with smaller enterprises.

[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](#)

DriveCam's two cameras provide a unique vantage point of simultaneous action inside and outside the bus.



Photos: Jimmy Stroup

## Division 3 Testing High-Tech Video Recording Device on 215 Buses

- 'DriveCam' monitors action inside and outside a bus
- Could change accident investigations, help train operators

By JIMMY STROUP

(Nov. 16, 2005) North Los Angeles Division 3 has begun a 90-day pilot program that could end up changing the way Metro investigates accidents, trains its operators and even how much it pays in insurance premiums.

DriveCam, a video recording device mounted on the windshield near the rearview mirror, records the action inside and outside the vehicle just as the driver sees it. And starting this week, DriveCam units will be recording the events inside and outside the 215 buses based at Division 3.

When General Manager Jack Gabig and Scott Boim, senior safety specialist for the San Gabriel Valley Service Sector, visited ATC Transit in Chula Vista last February, they learned about a device ATC had placed in all its vehicles that had greatly reduced operating costs.

It was then that Gabig and Boim thought DriveCam might also be a

good idea for Metro.

Installation of Division 3's DriveCam units was finished Nov. 3. The system is expected to be fully implemented and operational starting this week.

**Not costing a cent**

The pilot program, which will continue at least through the beginning of February 2006, isn't costing MTA a single dollar—Gabig and Boim negotiated a deal with DriveCam that requires the San Diego-based company to pick up all expenses for the 90-day trial.

Used in other transportation industries, DriveCam has been effective in reducing operating costs due to negligence and accidents by up to 50 percent, a pattern Division 3 hopes to emulate.

The way DriveCam works is this: the units are activated by any erratic change in vehicle movement, such as an impact, a sudden speed-up or slow-down, or a sudden bump—like going over a curb.

The 10 seconds before and the 10 seconds after the unit is activated are recorded and later downloaded from the device for review. DriveCam's memory is large enough to save 12 events before it must be downloaded.



Maintenance Manager Bill Grunwald (left) and Transportation Manager Mike Greenwood at a Division 3 maintenance station that has been outfitted with a long USB cable. The USB cable attaches to the DriveCam for downloading at the division's service island.

**Reviewing the events**

"Every day when the bus is fueled and cleaned, it'll get downloaded," said Mike Greenwood, Division 3 transportation manager. Greenwood and his staff will review the events daily and determine what actions, if any, need to be taken to improve accident prevention and operator performance.

Cameras in buses aren't new to Metro, but this system is unique, Greenwood said, in that it provides a clear record of both the action in front of the bus, and a simultaneous record of what the passengers and operator are doing inside the vehicle.

"The big advantage to this system is the forward-facing lens," he said,

which enables managers to review an incident from the operator's perspective frame-by-frame.

Greenwood hopes DriveCam will increase safety and decrease the number of incidents in his division. He also said the units will be helpful in identifying training deficiencies that need to be corrected before the behavior becomes a real problem.

Senior Safety Specialist Boim echoed that sentiment, noting that the record of what's going on inside the bus will be invaluable in protecting operators from false customer claims.

### **'Protecting the operator'**

"Right now, everything's in a gray area," he said. "This is protecting the operator."

Installation of the units—which would normally cost about \$1,200 each—began in October.

The DriveCam modules have actually been recording since their final installation Nov. 3, but haven't been downloaded because of software challenges, said Division 3 Maintenance Manager Bill Grunwald.



Division 3 Transportation Manager Mike Greenwood inspects USB cable staff uses to download images from the DriveCam. He and his staff will review the DriveCam footage daily.

Currently, DriveCam data is downloaded using a long USB cable installed at maintenance stations. Should MTA extend the program beyond its scheduled termination, there may be an easier method that will save time and effort for maintenance crews.

"They're equipped for wireless transmission, but the software's not ready for that yet," Grunwald said. "Once that's done, it will be completely independent—our people won't have to do anything at that point."

Grunwald is excited about the new program and said he's noticed people taking an interest in the installation.

"I think the curiosity factor has gotten to the point where people want to see it," he said.





[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](#)

CDTech treasure hunters study their clues before embarking on the search for the mystery locations.



### 'Treasure Hunters' Discover Community 'Jewels' via Metro Rail

By RICH MORALLO

(Nov. 16, 2005) "Take off the dust and see the jewels in our communities," encouraged Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who helped kick off the city's first community treasure hunt, sponsored by the Community Development Technologies Center (CDTech).



Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa welcomes a participant. Below, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry took a moment with Metro Security Assistant Maria Alvarez.

Following the mayor's talk, teams of adventurers rode Metro Rail from the Los Angeles Trade Tech Community College to McArthur Park and to a neighborhood near the Metro Blue Line's Vernon station. Their challenge: solve a series of puzzles leading to mystery locations within the one square-mile playing areas.

Villaraigosa said the journey on Metro Rail to South Los Angeles and MacArthur Park would showcase locations that could help bolster the economy of the area. Treasure hunt participants had to solve a series of puzzles, follow directions and talk to residents to find the mystery locations.

The clues were designed to test map reading skills, knowledge of popular culture, social skills, computer skills and current



events. The teams had to discover concealed markers to reach their treasure hunt goals.

**Benefited literacy and education**

Successful teams won a \$250 prize. Proceeds from the event benefited CDTech’s literacy and education programs.

Los Angeles City Council members Jan Perry and Ed Reyes were also on hand to wish the assembled students, city staff members and families good luck on their trip.

“Welcome to Metro Rail and please be safe on your travel this morning,” said Sgt. Jerome Ryan with Metro’s Transit Services Bureau. Metro Security staff escorted the urban adventurers on Metro Rail as they fanned out to complete the hunt.

Near the Vernon Metro Blue Line station participants visited historic Dunbar Hotel, Farmers’ Market, and the CDTech facility. Treasure hunters who traveled to the Westlake/MacArthur Park station visited the park’s boathouse, the UCLA Labor Center and Mama’s Hot Tamales Restaurant.

Manual Arts High School student Octavio Ramos followed his clues and went to the Grand station to catch the Blue Line to Vernon station. “Metro Rail took me where I needed to go,” he reported.

[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](#)

## Sharing the Rideshare Dream: Employers Pack Metro Commute Services Workshop

- Transportation Coordinators from more than 225 employers in L.A. County learn how to market 'Rideshare' programs to their employees



Metro Commute Services' Teresa Milliken presents training certificate of completion to ETC Madelyn Robinson, who coordinates transportation options for some 2,000 City of Pasadena employees.

(Nov. 16, 2005) Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs) from across LA County gathered at Metro Headquarters, Tuesday, for training on how to market rideshare services in their companies.

The ETCs picked up a well-earned training certificate required by Southern California Air Quality Management District. The half-day session in the Metro Board Room was also an opportunity for rideshare vendors, such as Flexcar, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and municipal bus services to display their alternative wares.

The "Share the Dream Workshop," hosted by Metro Commute Services, provided tips on effective rideshare marketing. In California, companies with 250 or more employees are required to offer rideshare programs.

The ETCs reviewed Metro's Employer Pass Program, the TAP fare program being readied for introduction in 2005, and welcomed the Metro Orange Line to the Rideshare family. L.A. Bike Coalition leader K.C. Butler presented bike safety tips.

To interest their employees in using Metro and other commuter services, Tuesday's seminar offered the ETCs such tips as promoting ridesharing at company events; using posters, brochures, electronic messages and newsletters.

Metro  
Commute  
Services'  
Aileen Landau  
hands out  
the inscribed

certificates to  
transportation  
coordinators  
after  
completion of  
the seminar.



| [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](#)

## LA Design Association Impressed by Metro's Award-winning Graphics

(Nov. 17, 2005) Metro's award-winning graphic designs were on display, Nov. 10, when some 30 Los Angeles members of the American Institute of Graphic Arts gathered for an evening tour of the agency's Design Studio.

For the AIGA members, who usually tour local design firms or such institutions as the Getty Museum, it was their first opportunity to visit a public agency design group.

Following a reception in the Gateway Building's Plaza lobby, the designers toured the 19th floor Design Studio, where examples of Metro advertising, posters, signage, publications and photography were on display.

Photos: Deniz Durmus



Maya Emsden, deputy executive officer, Creative Services, welcomes AIGA members prior to a tour of the Design Studio.



The Design Studio was given a visual makeover, featuring photography, supergraphics and many samples of work product.

One AIGA member, writing on the organization's web site, commented on the "enlightening tour into the world of Metro" and said the designs

were a harmonious blend of “compelling aesthetics and wit with efficient, cost-saving production devices.” Another wrote, “Thank you for making the LA transportation system a better experience.”

Creative  
Director  
Michael  
Lejeune and  
Senior  
Designer  
Melissa  
Rosen  
prepare  
signage for  
mini-  
presentations  
to the AIGA  
members.



“We were very proud to host this event and it was truly exciting to share our enthusiasm for Metro with other designers,” said Creative Director Michael Lejeune.

[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](#)

*"All employees using MTA vehicles shall fasten their seat belts upon entering the vehicle and shall keep them fastened as long as the vehicle is in operation...." --Metro Safety Policy #9, Section 1.1*

Photos: Luis Inzunza



Operator Jacquelyn Parchman demonstrates proper use of the seat belt.

## Bus Operator Safety Belt Policy Takes Effect Following Arbitrator's Ruling

- Arbitrator cites 'wisdom of a mandatory seat belt policy'
- Major or minor infraction rule still must be negotiated

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Nov. 17, 2005) After more than a year's delay while Metro and the UTU went to court and then to arbitration, the safety rule requiring bus operators to wear seat belts while behind the wheel is taking effect immediately.

"It's a victory for our customers and our employees," Deputy CEO John Catoe said Thursday, following release of the arbitrator's ruling. "Studies all over the country, and our own safety records show, that by wearing safety belts people are safer and the operator remains in the seat if the bus is hit by another vehicle."

"The operators have been advised that it is required to wear seat belts," said Goldy Norton, UTU spokesman, "so they better wear the seat belts."

Metro and the UTU went to arbitration over whether the agency violated the collective bargaining agreement by adopting a mandatory seat belt rule for bus operators and whether failure to do so was a major or minor rule infraction.

In a 20-page ruling, Arbitrator Howard Block said Metro had not violated the bargaining agreement. He directed the agency and the UTU to negotiate the rule infraction issue, but he retained jurisdiction in case the two could not reach agreement.

### 'Wisdom' of the policy

"(T)he evidence is overwhelming in support of the wisdom of a mandatory seat belt policy," Block wrote. "The Arbitrator can find no language in the Collective Bargaining Agreement which bars MTA from unilaterally adopt(ing)

this rule."

Block wrote that, while he is "sensitive to the testimony of operators who have been attacked and claim that the seat belt makes it difficult to defend themselves," he added that, "by remaining belted the odds are very much in their favor. The number of bus accidents greatly exceeds the number of unprovoked attacks."

"In short, when all of the pros and cons are carefully weighed," he wrote, "the objectives of safety are better served when the operator remains belted – better for the operators and the passengers and also less property damage."

Asked about the next step on the rule infraction issue, Catoe said, "We will work on this issue with the union in a very short time period. I talked with (UTU General Chairman) James Williams last night concerning this issue and will again this week."

The seat belt policy originally was to have taken effect on Nov. 1, 2004. Following a two-month training and familiarization period that was to have ended Dec. 31, 2004, the safety infraction rule would have gone into effect on Jan. 1, 2005.

**'Want operators to comply'**

"Right now, we want operators to comply and, if they don't wear a safety belt, we'll tell them to do so," said Catoe. "We fully expect them to comply."

According to Robert Torres, a Metro Systems Safety manager, Metro has been alone among the nation's largest transit systems, in not enforcing mandatory use of seat belts. Transit properties in Southern California that require seat belt use include OCTA, Santa Monica, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Norwalk, Long Beach and Foothill Transit.

To answer the need for operator comfort during long drives, Metro retrofitted every coach in the fleet with 72-inch seat belts. The retractable belts, with a button release, will fit operators of every size and shape.

Torres noted that Operations Central Instruction for the past year has been instructing bus operator trainees in the proper use of the retractable belts.

He cited a Metro study from Dec. 1, 2002 through Dec. 31, 2003, that found a total of 453 bus operators were injured in traffic collisions. From Jan. 1, 2002 through Dec. 31, 2003, however, there were only 39 unprovoked attacks on Metro Bus operators and other employees.



[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](#)

County  
Supervisor  
Zev  
Yaroslavsky  
and San  
Fernando  
Valley  
General  
Manager  
Richard  
Hunt  
examine  
prototype  
strobe light  
on Metro  
Liner bus at  
news  
conference.



## Metro Demonstrates Prototype Strobe Lights on Orange Line Bus

- Agency considering ways to make Metro Liners more visible

By JIMMY STROUP

(Nov. 17, 2005) Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, San Fernando Valley General Manager Richard Hunt and a host of local TV and print reporters gathered at West Valley Division 8, Thursday, to witness a demonstration of prototype strobe lights mounted atop a Metro Orange Line bus.

The Metro Liner was outfitted with the lights as one of several ideas—some implemented and some still on the drawing board—meant to improve safety conditions for Orange Line operators and passengers and for motorists at transitway intersections.

“Our intent here is to show more visibility during daylight hours,” Hunt said during a meeting of the Executive Management and Audit Committee. All of the recent accidents on the Orange Line occurred during the daytime.

The test bus, with strobe lights flashing, went into service at 1 p.m., Thursday, making its first run eastbound from Warner Center. It will continue in service throughout the evening.

Because the strobe lights may not be in compliance with



the California Vehicle Code, the California Highway Patrol has been asked to consider a code waiver that would permit placing strobe lights on all Orange Line buses.

**Changes Already Made**

The safety task force responsible for the Orange Line has already cooperated with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to lower bus-related traffic signs for increased visibility.

And at certain intersections, the standard green “through” light has been replaced with a green arrow to reinforce the “No Right Turn” restraint. In addition, bus speeds have been reduced to 10 mph at all intersections.

Bright yellow signs featuring a picture of the signature Orange Line bus silhouette and marked “BUS” have also been added at some intersections to increase awareness of Metro Liners’ presence.

After an accident, Nov. 2, the Los Angeles Police and Sheriff’s departments increased traffic enforcement along the Orange Line. In the 10 days that followed, the sheriff’s department alone issued nearly 500 traffic citations. Most were for running signals, followed by citations for failure to yield.

**Plans and Ideas**

Far from being finished improving the Orange Line, Hunt said several ideas are under consideration that could make drivers and pedestrians pay more heed to buses. Some include:

- “Busway Ahead” signs set back from upcoming intersections,
- “Rumble Strips” and roadway bumps,
- Lights embedded in the pavement signaling bus entrances, and
- Closing gates at high-risk intersections.
- Painting the buses a brighter color has also been suggested.

“We’re looking at a couple of different ways of enhancing the appearance of the vehicle,” Hunt told the committee. “I do want to point out that the first vehicle involved [in an accident on the Orange Line] was a bright red bus. But if the issue keeps coming up, then certainly it’s something we’ll have to consider.”

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa hopes the safety changes—both implemented and planned—will improve safety along the Orange Line.

"These recommendations are putting us on the right track," he said at the committee meeting. "This thing's working. We've got to fine-tune it, and we will."

---

| [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](#)

Kymberleigh Richards is a CAC member from the San Fernando Valley sector.

## Citizens Advisory Council Members Have a Vision for LA Transit

By RICH MORALLO



Wally Shidler is a CAC member from the Gateway Cities sector.

(Nov. 18, 2005) Wally Shidler remembers growing up in the 1940s and riding the street car into Los Angeles.

"I was fascinated by the trolley operator," says Shidler, currently vice-chairman of the Gateway Cities Service Sector Governance Council.

Meanwhile, Shidler's counterpart on the San Fernando Valley governance council, Kymberleigh Richards, recalls writing a high school paper in the 1970s on the San Francisco BART construction project.

Years after their initial interest in mass transit both Shidler and Richards are still very much involved with public buses and trains, and transportation systems.

Recently they were asked to serve on the Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC), the group of volunteer consultants appointed by the Board to study transit issues and provide recommendations.

### A transit habit

"I made a habit of using transit systems in cities I visited," says Richards, who started riding the San Fernando Valley's bus service in 1991.

Richards later participated in the 1994 transit restructuring study for the Valley, served on the passenger advisory committee and secured an appointment to the sector governance council.

Richards, who works in media and web design, agreed to serve on the CAC when asked by Director David Fleming.

Shidler spent 44 years as a motion picture engineer in Hollywood before he retired. "I was the only one out of 100 people in that company who used public transportation."

"Public transit is much better today than it used to be," says Shidler, who believes that there is still room to add more service. "We need to look at discretionary drivers and get them out of their vehicles."

**Vision for the future**

On her goals for working transit issues with the CAC, Richards says she personally supports Mayor Villaraigosa's vision to set in motion a long-term vision for the future.

"While it may take many years to complete a system that will attract ridership, unless a start is made now, it can never happen," she says.

For Shidler, who received his CAC appointment from Director Bonnie Lowenthal, attracting more people to buses and trains is key.

"We need to convince new riders that public transit is more economical," he says.

[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](#)

## Transit Safety Officials to Discuss Evacuation of Disabled Persons

By REINA V. SLUTSKE

(Nov. 18, 2005) Some 30 transit safety officials will meet at Metro Headquarters, Monday, to discuss emergency preparedness and disaster evacuation procedures for persons with disabilities.

Metro staff, along with representative from the California Highway Patrol, the California Association of Coordinated Transportation (CalACT), the California Department of Rehabilitation and a number of Southern California transportation agencies, will discuss plans to move disabled persons out of areas hit by natural disaster or terrorist attacks.

The meeting is scheduled from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Gateway Conference Room.

"We determine if paratransit is a part of local evacuation plans," says Richard Devlyder, deputy director of the state Independent Living and External Affairs Council. "I don't believe that (some of the) evacuation planners have ever been in the same room."

Monday's program is a response to the fires of 2003 in San Bernardino and San Diego counties, according to Pete Spaulding, executive director of CalACT.

## Tried to move people

"During those fires, paratransit operators were trying to get people out," he says. But, when it was all over, they couldn't collect money from FEMA.

Department of Rehabilitation and CalACT officials have held meetings around the state – including in the Bay Area and Sacramento – to learn about local evacuation plans for disabled persons.

"The discussion in Sacramento is different from the discussion in Oakland," says Devlyder. "In Sacramento, it's about floods and in Oakland, it's about earthquakes."

Chip Hazen, Metro's ADA compliance administrator and a member of the CalACT board, says Monday's meeting is important.

"People with disabilities aren't included" in many emergency evacuation plans, he says. "In Louisiana, they weren't included."

After the meeting, says Devlyder, the Department of Rehabilitation will make recommendations to the state and help outline a plan of action.







[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 Urges Using Transit to See Hollywood Christmas Parade

- Villaraigosa will be Grand Marshall – a parade first

By KIM UPTON

For the first time in the history of the Hollywood Christmas Parade, an elected official – Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa – will be Grand Marshall, and the mayor is urging people to ride Metro to the Nov. 27 event.

A million people are expected to jam the streets for this year's parade to see stars of the popular television shows "Lost," "CSI: Miami," "The West Wing," "Numb3rs" and "The Shield," not to mention bands, horses and Santa Claus.

That's a major snarl, even by traffic-soaked Los Angeles standards. To help, parade officials and Metro have assembled a list of ways to see this year's parade – the 74th – the easy way.

"Our goal is to make life better and easier for the people of Los Angeles and this extends to small things like how families enjoy the many free events our city sponsors," said Villaraigosa. "We encourage people planning to attend this year's parade to use the Metro system."

### Christmas Parade route

The 3.2-mile route starts near the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Orange in front of Grauman's Chinese Theater, then heads east on Hollywood Boulevard to Vine Street where it turns south on Vine to Sunset Boulevard. It turns right west on Sunset and returns west to Orange, ending up in front of Hollywood High School.

Metro will add extra train cars to all Metro Red Line trains on parade day. Prior to the parade, trains will operate every 12 minutes to Hollywood from downtown Los Angeles and from the San Fernando Valley.

Following the parade, trains will depart the Hollywood area every 12 minutes. Service will begin operating every 20 minutes at approximately 9 p.m.

If you're going to the Christmas Parade, here are a few tips:

- Plan to arrive in Hollywood an hour or two before the parade begins to capture a great position. The parade will run from 5 to 7 p.m. but crowds begin assembling by 3 p.m.
- Take Metro Rail or Metro Bus to the parade route.
- Stay a little late. By 9 p.m. most people will have departed.
- Buy tickets for seats, if your budget allows. Prices for grandstand

seats are \$40 for adults and \$35 for children 12 and under. (For tickets call 1-866-PARADE-1.)

- If you'll have a handicapped person with you, specified reserved handicapped areas will be located adjacent to the Number 10 Grandstand, just west of Highland on Hollywood Boulevard.

Metro Bus service will operate according to Sunday schedules. Bus lines serving the parade route are lines 2, 26, 156, 163, 180, 181, 210, 212 and 217. Additional buses will supplement lines servicing the Hollywood area, as needed.

Due to parade route and street closure, Metro will re-route 10 bus lines in the Hollywood area. The lines to be detoured are 2, 26, 156, 163, 180, 181, 207, 210, 212 and 217. Detours will begin at about 3 p.m. on Sunday and last until the conclusion of the parade.

[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 oldest employee Arthur Winston gears up for his new position as an honorary member of Customer Relations. Photos by Jimmy Stroup.



**Group Reaction** > Passenger reps Dalila Valles and Monica Macon said they were 'honored to meet and speak with Mr. Winston.' Agents Milca Elorriaga and Russell Jones acknowledged that he was 'truly an inspiration' to them. Alonzo Williams marveled at his wit and 'staying power to remain committed and dedicated so long.'

## Arthur Winston Crowned 'Honorary Member' of Customer Relations Team

By Jimmy Stroup

(Nov. 22, 2005) Metro's most famous employee paid a visit to the Customer Relations Department in the Gateway Building today, delivering tips on clean living, longevity and the work ethic—things he seems to know a little bit about.

Arthur Winston, 99 years old and a Metro employee for nearly 72 years, was warmly greeted by many agents as he toured the call center, where he received his own personal telephone head-set.



Matt Raymond, Chief Communications Officer, Alonzo Williams, Communications Manager and Gail Harvey, Customer Relations Director, present Winston with a plaque from the Customer Relations Department commemorating his time at Metro. Not pictured: Tom Horne, Customer Relations Manager.

Presented with an official plaque, Winston was crowned 'honorary member' of the Customer Relations team by Gail Harvey, Alonzo Williams, Tom Horne and Matt Raymond.

"After providing such dedicated service to our customers, he has truly earned this title," said Gail Harvey, Director of Customer Relations.



Customer Relations Director Gail Harvey, Winston and Passenger Service Officer David Ullrich. Ullrich built the "Information" sign in honor of the Customer Relations Department's 100-year anniversary coming up in August. The sign is a replica of one that hung at 6th Ave. and Main St. in the old Pacific Electric building.

"I'm so proud and thankful to be here," Winston said. "I didn't even know this part of the building was here."

Customer Relations Director Gail Harvey arranged to have the program videotaped.

"Now we can share the special event with the rest of the staff who couldn't be here and later on, when we need a little motivation, we can pop the video in," she said.

**Tell Us Your Secrets**

Customer Relations employees were treated to a question and answer session with Winston.



**Q:** How is it different now from when you started in 1924?

**AW:** "The city was smaller, so we just had streetcars. We only had a few buses. In it's age and time, it was all right. That's really coming from the horse-and-buggy days to now, though! When I started working I made 41 cents an hour and rent was \$17 a month. Times have changed!"



Customer Relations most senior members Juanita "Maggie" Cook (left) and Marie Tervalon flank Winston. Between them both, Cook and Tervalon only come to 65 years of service, compared to Winston's 71.

**Q:** How do you manage to stay so fit and active?

**AW:** "I never was in a whole lot of stress—I don't have no credit cards. If you living like that, you ain't living at all.... That credit is killing you. I'm not in debt. Don't owe nothing to nobody." He said he never has smoked or been fond of alcohol.

**Q:** What do you eat?

**AW:** "I eat anything that don't eat me!"

**Q:** What was it like meeting President Clinton?

**AW:** "It was wonderful. He didn't have a whole lot to say, but I met him, all right."

### **Arthur and the Future**

And while he does intend to give up his day job, Winston plans to remain active and do things for seniors. "I can't see no limit on living," he said, shaking his head. "I don't see how people say you can only live to 60 or 70 years old."

Winston has plans to retire at his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in March, but said he will return to help Customer Relations Department celebrate its centennial anniversary in August 2006.

[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 Jersey Transit On Board with Metro's Rail Safety Program

- License deal is a first for Metro, but more may follow

By JIMMY STROUP

(Nov. 22, 2005) Kindergartners and high school students who go to school near a Metro Rail line have probably seen the safety material Metro demonstrates

to children all year long. Soon enough, students at schools in Newark, N.J., will be able to say they've seen it, too.

With a \$7,500 check to prove it, Metro has for the first time licensed the animated and live-action short safety films, as well as 14 public service announcements (PSA) to another transit agency.

The Transit Safety Education and Outreach program was developed to educate would-be rail riders near the Metro Blue and Gold Lines about rail-specific safety issues.

The licensee is the New Jersey Transit Corp. (NJTC), the third-largest transit agency in the country. NJTC will use the Metro-created media to educate some 3,000 students on safety issues that are special to light rail systems.

"It's exciting for us, because we always knew that we had a good product. To have other people recognize it, too, is great," said Barbara Burns, the rail safety program manager. "Basically what they said is, 'This is right on. This is what we need.'"

Just signed Nov. 14, the agreement entitles NJTC to licensed uses of the videos and PSAs employed in the Metro Rail safety program. NJTC will edit the video to change the Los Angeles station names to New Jersey stops, but will otherwise use the material as it stands.

## West Coast agencies interested

Though the NJTC deal is the only current working agreement, Metro is in negotiation with several other West Coast transit agencies to license the safety material.

Metro, in cooperation with the Los Angeles Unified School District, has used the various media to reach an estimated 1.2 million people countywide, Burns said. The New Jersey agency uses mostly subway systems, which dwarf their light rail system in comparison.



Three cartoon characters play at a Metro Rail station in the rail safety video, "Look, Listen and Stay Alive."

A demonstration of the various media Metro developed was shown at an American Public Transportation Association event in San Jose in 2003. Shortly after, Operation Lifesaver, a national rail safety organization, conducted focus groups that indicated other transit agencies would be interested in using Metro's materials.

The new light rail materials have been in use since 2003 when the Gold Line opened.

"Our light rail safety program is a combination of site-specific PowerPoint presentations and cutting-edge videos," Burns said.

"We do orientation tours where the students receive a safety presentation and get a day pass. So it's really good for the schools," she said. "It's good for us because we get the kids riding at an early age."

---

| [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 Sets Public Hearing on Transit Needs in Santa Clarita**

By RICK JAGER

(Nov. 22, 2005) Metro will conduct a public hearing in the Santa Clarita Valley on Wednesday, Nov. 30, to receive ideas and suggestions for meeting public transportation needs in the Santa Clarita Valley.

The hearing will be held at 10 a.m., in Santa Clarita City Hall, City Council Chambers, 23920 Valencia Blvd.

Each year, Metro holds public hearings in areas outside the Agency's service area to determine any unmet transit needs.

Article 8 of the TDA stipulates that a proportional share of the sales tax revenue be allocated to areas in the county that do not have Metro service. Article 8 applies to approximately 5 percent of the County population that resides in the Santa Clarita Valley, Antelope Valley and Santa Catalina Island.

TDA funds must be spent for public transit purposes when a legitimate need for transit service can be identified. However, if no "unmet transit needs" are found, sales tax revenue may be used for street and road purposes.

Following the hearing, and after receiving input from the Hearing Board and Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, Metro will decide whether there are unmet transit needs in the Santa Clarita Valley.

[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](#)

**On the job:** TOS Fenee Dixon-Turner, service attendant Kenny McGee, TOS Edward King and schedule maker Steve Tontz.



## Articulated Buses to Debut, Dec. 18, on Vermont, Western Avenues

By REINA V. SLUTSKE

(Nov. 22, 2005) Forty-one 60-foot articulated buses will make their debut on the streets of Los Angeles, Dec. 18, to serve two Metro Rapid lines: Line 754 on Vermont Avenue, and a new line, the 757 on Western Avenue.

Currently, the red and silver "artics" have completed test runs to determine obstacles and layover zones prior to the start of revenue runs.





**On the job:** AWD Division 5 assistant transportation manager Keith Green, schedule supervisor Thang Tran, TOS Edward King and schedule maker Steve Tontz.

"This type of testing is usually done on new routes, but, basically, these routes are not new," said Madeline Van Leuvan, South Bay Service Sector schedules manager. "We are conducting these tests for compatibility of the 60-foot articulated buses with current street conditions."

According to Van Leuvan, the artics will be used on some Rapid lines to save operating costs by carrying more passengers. Adjustments are being made to ensure that the longer buses similar to those used on the Orange Line, will operate safely on city streets.

### **Stops may be expanded**

Transportation Planning Manager Stephen Fox says some of the bus stops along Vermont and Western avenues had to be expanded to handle the long articulated buses.

Changes include adjusting parking areas and street furniture such as newspaper racks by working with LADOT to accommodate the artics.

Another point of concern was a turning movement at the south terminal. According to Thang Tran, schedules supervisor for the South Bay Service Sector, due to traffic conditions, a difficult left-hand turn departing the Metro Green Line station onto 120th Street required planners to design an alternate route.



[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 Sets Public Hearing on Transit Needs in Antelope Valley

By RICK JAGER

(Nov. 29, 2005) Metro will conduct public hearings in Lancaster and Palmdale on Wednesday, Dec. 7, to receive ideas and suggestions for meeting public transportation needs in the Antelope Valley.

The first hearing will be held in the Lancaster City Council Chambers, 44933 North Fern Ave., starting at 10 a.m. The second hearing will begin at 2 p.m. in the Palmdale Cultural Center Joshua Room, 38350 Sierra Highway.

Each year, Metro holds public hearings in areas outside the Agency's service area to determine any unmet transit needs.

Article 8 of the TDA stipulates that a proportional share of the sales tax revenue be allocated to areas in the county that do not have Metro service. Article 8 applies to approximately 5 percent of the County population that resides in the Santa Clarita Valley, Antelope Valley and Santa Catalina Island.

TDA funds must be spent for public transit purposes when a legitimate need for transit service can be identified. However, if no "unmet transit needs" are found, sales tax revenue may be used for street and road purposes.

Following the hearing, and after receiving input from the Hearing Board and Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, Metro will decide whether there are unmet transit needs in the Antelope Valley.



[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](#)

## Private Funeral Service for Retired Customer Service Agent Vivian Williams

(Nov. 29, 2005) Private funeral services are planned for retired Customer Service Agent Vivian Williams, who died Nov. 26 following a bout with cancer.

Williams, 50, retired Oct. 15 with 24 years' service. She began her employment with Metro in 1981 as a telephone information agent, although the majority of her career was spent working as a customer service agent in Lost and Found and the Reduced Fare unit.

"Losing her is like losing a sister," said Jim Regalado, Wilshire senior customer service agent and close friend.

"She was our family and she will dearly be missed," said Maria Esparza, Maria Diaz and Gloria Serrano Reduced Fare customer service agents.

"We worked with her for 24 years and would have loved to work with her at least another 24," said customer service agent Ana Dufrense.

The suddenness of William's illness and death caught her friends and co-workers by surprise.

"Vivian was a sweet spirit and one of the nicest people you could ever have the fortune of meeting," said Vanessa Smith, communications manager and her direct supervisor.

"Vivian was a valued member of our team, and she touched so many of our lives," said April McKay, director of Customer Programs and Services.

Williams is survived by three sisters, Lydia, Joan and Gwen, her mother and a host of nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, friends may contribute to the Cancer Society in Williams' name. Cards and gifts will be forwarded to the family by Jim Regalado at the Wilshire Customer Service Center, Interoffice Mail Location 106.



Vivian Williams



[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 card poster commemorating the life of Rosa Parks will be unveiled on Thursday.



## Metro to Honor Civil Rights Pioneer Rosa Parks at Thursday Ceremony

By JIMMY STROUP

(Nov. 29, 2005) Metro will mark the 50th anniversary of a defining moment in civil rights history, Thursday, with the unveiling of a bus card poster commemorating the life of Rosa Parks.

CEO Roger Snoble will host the 10 a.m. event, which will be held on the Plaza at the entrance to the Gateway Building. The event will include a 1950s era bus and a high-tech Metro Liner.

The commemorative car cards will be placed at the front of 2,200 Metro buses starting on the Dec. 1 anniversary of Parks' refusal to relinquish her seat in the front of the bus and move to the rear as required by the segregation laws then in force in Montgomery, Ala.

Her act sparked a 381-day boycott of that city's bus system and a wave of similar non-violent protests across the nation.

The posters feature a vintage picture of Parks seated on a bus and a quote: "Each person must live their life as a model for others."

"Many transit agencies in the United States are looking for ways to honor Rosa Parks on the anniversary of her refusal to give up her seat," said Warren Morse, deputy executive officer, Communications.

"We feel that this is a very appropriate and tasteful way to salute and honor her," he said. "She stands as an example that an individual can do something to affect change."

The 1999 recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor, Parks was 92 when she died Oct. 24 at her home in Detroit.



[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](#)

**Sector Governance Councils Set December Meetings**

By RICK JAGER

(Nov. 30, 2005) Metro's service sector governance councils will hold monthly meetings in December to discuss transportation issues.

Here is the list of governance council meetings for December:

- Westside/Central Service Sector, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 6, La Cienega Tennis Center, Sunset Room, 325 S. La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills.
- San Fernando Valley Service Sector, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7, Glendale City Hall, Perkins Community Room # 118, 141 N. Glendale Ave., Glendale.
- Gateway Service Sector, 2 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 8, The Gas Company, 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey.
- South Bay Service Sector, 9:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 9, Carson Community Center, Room 206, 801 E. Carson, Carson.




[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](#)

## Expo Line Board to Consider Environmental Recommendation

(Nov. 30, 2005) The Exposition Metro Line Authority Construction Board will meet, Thursday, to consider recommending that the LACMTA Board of Directors approve the final environmental impact statement and report for the light rail project.

The motion includes a recommendation for approval of the Locally Approved Alternative for the mid-city Westside Transit Corridor and the Exposition Line. The first phase of the project is to run from the 7th and Metro station to Culver City.

The meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. at the Hall of Administration, 3rd floor, Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room 381B.

The LACMTA Board is expected to consider certifying the final environmental documents and adopt a Locally Preferred Alternative at its Dec. 15 meeting. The Federal Transit Administration approved release of the environmental documents in October and the public review period ended Nov. 28.

The Locally Approved Alternative includes a number of design options:

- An undercrossing between Jefferson Boulevard and Trousdale Parkway on the USC campus with an option for a future USC/Exposition Park Station near Kinsey Drive on the campus;
- La Brea aerial station and grade separation;
- La Cienega station 500-space parking facility on the southeast corner of Jefferson and La Cienega on the city-owned east central interceptor sewer construction staging site;
- Jefferson Boulevard northside widening at La Cienega Boulevard;
- Jefferson Boulevard grade separation near Ballona Creek; and
- Venice/Robertson at-grade interim station located east of National Boulevard within the Metro-owned Exposition Line right-of-way.

According to a report to the Exposition Line Board, the City of Los Angeles is considering committing \$40 million toward the \$640 million project construction cost, including \$5 million for improvements to Grand Avenue at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

On its Consent Calendar, the Exposition Line Board will consider a contract for procurement support services with TEC Management Consultants, Inc. and revisions to the Administrative Code.




[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](#)

## Expo Line Board to Consider Environmental Recommendation

(Nov. 30, 2005) The Exposition Metro Line Authority Construction Board will meet, Thursday, to consider recommending that the LACMTA Board of Directors approve the final environmental impact statement and report for the light rail project.

The motion includes a recommendation for approval of the Locally Approved Alternative for the mid-city Westside Transit Corridor and the Exposition Line. The first phase of the project is to run from the 7th and Metro station to Culver City.

The meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. at the Hall of Administration, 3rd floor, Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room 381B.

The LACMTA Board is expected to consider certifying the final environmental documents and adopt a Locally Preferred Alternative at its Dec. 15 meeting. The Federal Transit Administration approved release of the environmental documents in October and the public review period ended Nov. 28.

The Locally Approved Alternative includes a number of design options:

- An undercrossing between Jefferson Boulevard and Trousdale Parkway on the USC campus with an option for a future USC/Exposition Park Station near Kinsey Drive on the campus;
- La Brea aerial station and grade separation;
- La Cienega station 500-space parking facility on the southeast corner of Jefferson and La Cienega on the city-owned east central interceptor sewer construction staging site;
- Jefferson Boulevard northside widening at La Cienega Boulevard;
- Jefferson Boulevard grade separation near Ballona Creek; and
- Venice/Robertson at-grade interim station located east of National Boulevard within the Metro-owned Exposition Line right-of-way.

According to a report to the Exposition Line Board, the City of Los Angeles is considering committing \$40 million toward the \$640 million project construction cost, including \$5 million for improvements to Grand Avenue at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

On its Consent Calendar, the Exposition Line Board will consider a contract for procurement support services with TEC Management Consultants, Inc. and revisions to the Administrative Code.

