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Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board Meeting Set

(Feb. 1, 2006) The Exposition Metro Line Authority Construction Board is scheduled to meet at 3 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 3rd floor, Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room 381B.

The Board will consider staff recommendations to approve the selection of a design-build contractor, approve the selection of a permanent chief executive officer and adopt a resolution on State Disability Insurance.

The Board's consent calendar item is a receive and file report on forming Construction Board committees.



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Sector Governance Councils Schedule February Meetings

By RICK JAGER

(Feb. 1, 2006) Metro's service sector governance councils will hold public meetings in February to discuss various transportation issues.

The following is a list of governance council February meetings:

- **San Fernando Valley Service Sector**, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 1, Mission College, Campus Center Main Room, 13356 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar.
- **Westside/Central Service Sector**, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 7, La Cienega Tennis Center, Sunset Room, 325 S. La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills.
- **Gateway Service Sector**, 2 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9, The Gas Company, 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey.
- **South Bay Service Sector**, 9:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 10, Carson Community Center, Room 206, 801 E. Carson, Carson.
- **San Gabriel Valley Service Sector**, 5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 14, San Gabriel Valley Sector Office, 3369 Santa Anita Ave., El Monte.


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Board Approves LAX Shuttle Pact, Rail Car Seat Upholstery

(Feb. 1, 2006) The Board approved motions at its Jan. 26 meeting that allow the FlyAway airport shuttle to serve passengers at the Patsaouras Transit Plaza and that call for refurbishing seats on all Metro Rail cars.

Item 17, Union Station to LAX Shuttle. The Board approved a three-year agreement that will allow Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) to use the Patsaouras Transit Plaza as a terminal for its FlyAway Service to LAX. The CEO was authorized to execute the agreement.

Under the agreement LAWA will have exclusive use of the kiosk at the southern end of the Transit Plaza for ticket sales, passenger information and service monitoring. The agreement permits FlyAway buses to share Berth 9 on the Plaza, opens the P-4 level of the USG garage for FlyAway patron parking and permits staging of up to two FlyAway buses at Terminal 31 adjacent to the Regional Rebuild Center.

FlyAway buses could operate on up to 15-minute peak period headways but, initially, 30-minute headways are more likely. The 24-hour service will provide a direct link between LAX and the Metro Red and Gold Lines, Metro Bus, Metrolink and AMTRAK service at Union Station.

Metro anticipates receiving between \$44,000 and \$210,000 in additional parking revenues from FlyAway patrons over the three-year life of the agreement.

Item 24, New Upholstery for Rail Cars. The Board approved a motion to refurbish seats on all rail cars currently operating on the Metro Red and Blue Lines.

In the first year of its five-year, \$412,213 agreement, a Gardena company will refurbish 12,272 Metro Red Line car seats, 10,488 Metro Blue Line seats and 200 seats on Metro Green and Gold Line cars.

In subsequent years, the contractor will refurbish 300 to 400 seats a year for each rail line.

The seats, with new foam padding, will be reupholstered in the same fabric now used on the Metro Green and Gold Line fleets. The seats would have a uniform appearance and will be durable and graffiti-resistant.

The new 2550 rail cars now on order will be upholstered with the same material. That will allow Rail Operations to standardize seating materials throughout the light- and heavy-rail fleets, reducing both refurbishing costs and delays that could be caused by having to order a variety of upholstery materials.

Item 28, New Division 6. A motion to allow the CEO to consent to a reassignment of a land exchange agreement from RAD Jefferson, proposed developer of a new Division 6 facility in West LA, to KB Home Coastal, Inc., a nationwide housing developer, was pulled from the agenda and was not considered by the Board.



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Metro's AAEA Hosts First Event of Black History Month



The African American Employees Association opened Black History Month, Feb. 1, with a talk by Dr. Toni-Mokjaetji Humber (center) of Cal Poly Pomona. Shown here with AAEA members Tony Martin and Keith Hanson, Humber related the history of Africans in Mexico from antiquity, through slavery to the present in a talk entitled, "Where Black is Brown, the African Diaspora in Mexico." Humber, who teaches ethnic and women's studies, has traveled extensively in Mexico and visited in 2003 with Mexicans of African heritage. Her talk included descriptions of ancient Olmec carved stone heads with apparent African features and accounts of Mexican revolutionary leaders of African heritage.



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EDITOR'S NOTE: Punxsutawney Phil, the weather forecasting groundhog, saw his shadow, this morning, but it was hard to find a complainer in the crowd at Gobbler's Knob, Pa. Morning temperatures were well above freezing and Thursday's high was expected to hit 48 degrees. The weather in Los Angeles, Thursday, was partly cloudy with a high of 72 degrees. Sorry about that, Phil. (2/2/06)



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[Metro History Fact]

Metro Sprang to Life 13 Years Ago, Today

(Feb. 2, 2006) On this day in 1993, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Reform Act of 1992 (AB-152 Katz) officially formed Metro.

The Board of Directors met for the first time on Feb. 4, 1993. The Board elected LA City Councilman Richard Alatorre as chairman and LA County Supervisor Ed Edelman as vice chairman.

The Board also adopted key policies and procedures, and selected Franklin White as the agency's first CEO. The two predecessor agencies – SCRTD and LACTC – went out of business sixty days later on April 1, 1993.

– Courtesy of Metro Research Center

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Renderings of the new San Gabriel Valley Service Sector Bus Operations building in El Monte.



SGV Sector to Break Ground on New Bus Operations Building

- Building also to house sector's administrative offices

By DAVE HERSHENSON

(Feb. 2, 2006) The San Gabriel Valley Service Sector will have a ceremonial groundbreaking at 12:30 p.m., Friday, for construction of a new state-of-the-art Bus Operations building in El Monte.

The new three-story, 45,515 square foot steel frame building will be built on Caltrans property northwest of the current Division 9 Bus Operations building and adjacent to the El Monte Transit Center.

In addition to serving as the main building for bus operators and other employees at Division 9, the \$11.8 million structure will also be the new home of the San Gabriel Valley sector administrative office. It will include a community room for the sector's Governance Council meetings, public hearings, and other Metro meetings.

"This will be the first new Bus Operations building Metro has constructed in nearly 20 years, and will replace the current building that was built in the 1970's," said General Manager Jack Gabig. "Once completed, Metro and the City of El Monte will have a beautiful new building of which we can all be proud."

The building exterior will consist of an aluminum and glass wall panel system with a structural glass curtain wall system in the lobby. The building will incorporate recycled materials, energy efficiency,

daylighting, and air quality controls.

As a Green Building with a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design designation, it's design objectives include protecting occupant health, improving employee productivity, and using energy, water and other resources more efficiently.

'Building will be a model'

"The building we have designed is state-of-the-art, and since its conception we have designed the building with our operators' needs and requirements in mind," said Tim Lindholm, Facilities-Operations project manager. "From computer and Internet access to new furniture to the instruction facilities and meeting and public spaces, this building will be a model of how Metro transportation and administration buildings should be designed and built in the future."

The new Bus Operations building will not only replace outdated and antiquated facilities, but will allow for a future increase in the bus operating fleet, sector personnel, and expanded operation of the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau San Gabriel Valley field office.

W.E. O'Neill Constructors was awarded the design/build contract last July. The 13-month project, which actually began Jan. 30 with installation of temporary facilities and construction fencing, is to be completed in early spring 2007.

Once the new building is fully operational, the old transportation building will be knocked down, Lindholm said. The area will be repaved and restriped for bus parking, roughly doubling the size of Division 9's current bus parking area.

Under a memorandum of understanding, Metro was allowed to construct the building on Caltrans property but, in return, must replace displaced parking should usage of the El Monte Transit Center increase beyond a certain threshold.

Although unlikely, according to Lindholm, in that event, Metro could easily replace the parking on Metro-owned land currently occupied by the service sector's office building.


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Metro Celebrates Black History Month with Special Events

BY JIMMY STROUP

(Feb. 3, 2006) As they've done in previous years, Metro employees have organized several events throughout the month of February to reflect on the trials and victories of African Americans as they celebrate Black History Month.

This year's events so far have featured the screening of a *Nightline* episode that detailed the story of a "secret" 1944 basketball game in which an all-black North Carolina College for Negroes team played against an all-white Duke School of Medicine team—making it probably the first integrated intercollegiate game played in American history.

Attorney George Parks of the County Counsel's office played for the North Carolina College team during that historic game.

Earlier this week, the Metro African American Employees Association (AAEA) sponsored a speech by Dr. Toni-Mokjaetji Humber from the Ethnic and Women's Studies Department at Cal Poly, Pomona. Humber spoke on African heritage and influence in pre-historical Mexico.

On Feb. 9, the AAEA will host "Poet's Corner" from noon to 1 p.m. in the Windsor conference room on the 15th floor of the Gateway Building. The event will showcase poetic readings with subjects relating to issues and figures in black history.

'Dream Keepers' event

On Feb. 22, Metro Choir will host an hour-long celebration called "Dream Keepers" featuring Deputy CEO John Catoe and South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey, and thematic songs performed by the Metro Choir.

Guest vocalists from the Second Baptist Church of Monrovia and several members of the Civic Center Choir will complement Metro Choir's 30 volunteer members for this event, one of the biggest performances the choir does every year.

The "Dream Keepers" program will be held from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22, on the Plaza level of the Gateway Building. The Bus Operations Center on the 6th floor will also feature elaborate African decorations available for viewing on the same day.

"We will honor our past and embrace our future. We will pay homage to African American people who have made significant contributions not only to our culture, but also to society as a whole," Metro Choir Director Renee Willis said.

"We regularly reflect on the struggles of the past, as well as the accomplishments of our people," she added. "We have so much to celebrate."

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Division 1 Transportation Manager Sonja Owens congratulates Operator Michael Prather after Prather's Safe Operator win for the month of November. He received a plaque and a permit to park onsite.



New Division 1 Program Rewarding Safe Operators, Reducing Accidents

By REINA V. SLUTSKE

(Feb. 3, 2006) Since July 1, Central City Division 1 transportation managers have been promoting a program aimed at rewarding the division's safest operators while reducing accidents on targeted Metro bus lines.

Some lines, such as the 60, 18 and 745/45 lines, are targeted repeatedly, due to higher accident rates. Managers ride the lines along with instructors to observe the operators on the job. Each month, they pick the three safest operators on each line.

Each operator must exceed expectations, with no major write-ups or avoidable accidents within a 13-month period. Professional appearance and an overall good record are considered.

"There have been reductions in accidents this fiscal year and in Worker's Comp, which are key



Division 1 Transportation Manager Sonja Owens and Jeanne Henderson enjoy a moment after Henderson won Safe Operator of the month for November. Henderson drives the 720 Rapid bus line.

performance indicators,” said Sonja Owens, division transportation manager.

Between July and December, 2004, the rate of accidents per 100,000 miles averaged 4.47, while for the same period in 2005, the rate decreased to 3.48.

November award

The program also helped the division receive the “How You Doin’” award for November.

As a result of the program, operator morale has increased at Division 1, according to Assistant Transportation Manager Beth Kranda. “People are politicking to get the award. It comes with some prestige, and we’ve recognized that.”

The division has a mid-month ceremony, during which TVs are turned off, food is served, and awards – a plaque and a prime parking spot – are presented.

Owens hopes to expand the program to also focus on appearance and the best-dressed operators. Instead of a parking spot, the reward will be lunch with the manager.

“You’re supposed to be neat and clean out there,” she said. “If a driver is presentable, I’m going to feel better about the trip I take.”

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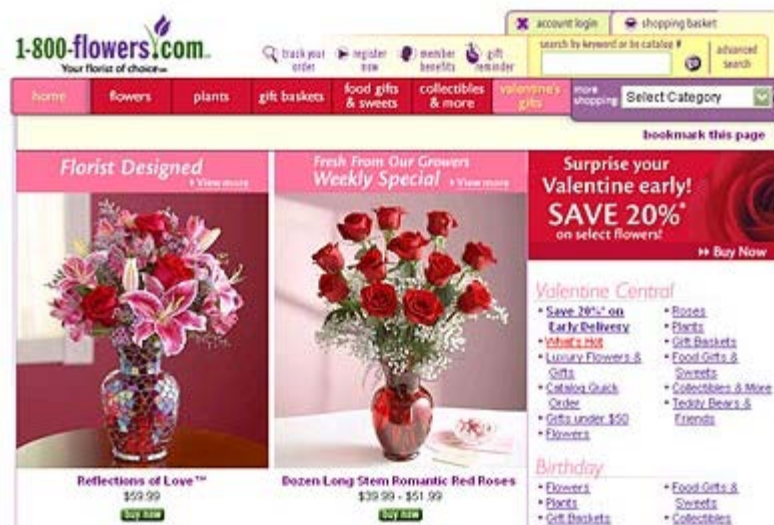
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Say the secret word: Starting Monday, employees can use a promotion code when placing an order at [1800flowers.com](#) or [call 1-800-FLOWERS (356-9377)] and receive a special 15% Metro discount.



Valentine's Day Gifts for Your Sweetie at a 15% Metro Discount

- Metro Store is now affiliated with [1-800-FLOWERS.COM](#)

(Feb. 3, 2006) Just in time for Valentine's Day, employees can now buy flowers, gourmet gift baskets and other delicious treats for their sweethearts on-line or by phone – at a 15 percent Metro discount!

Beginning Monday, employees can go to [1800flowers.com](#) or call 1-800-FLOWERS (356-9377) to place an order. For a full description of the company's offerings, employees can access a link on the Metro Store's "Discounts" web page and click on "Other Discounts."

Flowers and gifts can be delivered anywhere in the United States and Puerto Rico and to 21 other affiliated countries. International deliveries are available by calling 1-800-858-5039.

"I use it mostly online," says Communication Services Director Danielle Boutier, who often sends flowers to out-of-town family members. "The nice thing about it is that, when you remember at the last minute, they can still get your flowers there on time."

Discount is permanent

Metro's 15 percent discount is permanent and will extend beyond Valentine's Day. It applies to 1-800-FLOWERS.COM products, but not on delivery or service charges.

When ordering, Boutier says, employees must use the promotion code "MetroLA" to qualify for the discount.

1-800-FLOWERS.COM provides 24-hour customer service and a seven-day freshness guarantee on floral products. Same-day service may be available, depending on the time of day the order is placed and the order destination.

The company also has a Gift Concierge Service that will remind members of important dates when gifts such as flowers would be appropriate. Membership in 1-800-FLOWERS.COM is free.

More information and flyers about 1-800-FLOWERS.COM are available in the Metro Store on the Plaza level of Metro Headquarters.



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Photos: Duane Martin



Metro Gold line Operator Luis Diaz returns seven baby turtles left on a Metro Gold Line train to Kevin Hoang, who purchased them in Chinatown.



Well-Traveled Turtles Home After Their Gold Line Adventure

By DUANE MARTIN

(Feb. 3, 2006) Turtles are known for being slow and steady, but last Sunday seven little amphibians went for the ride of their lives on the Metro Gold Line.

Wanting to try out the Gold Line with family and friends, the Hoang family from Fullerton rode the train from Sierra Madre Villa to Chinatown to celebrate the Chinese New Year with a day of shopping.

On their return to Sierra Madre Villa, however, 7-year-old Brandon Hoang accidentally left his new pets on the train. When he realized his mistake and went back to the station, that train had departed taking the seven turtles with it.

But, there was good news. Operator Tom Cowan had found the turtles and taken them back to the Gold Line yard, where he turned them over safely to



the yard controller.

Kevin and Jacqueline Hoang took the turtles home to their son, Brandon.

Meanwhile, Brandon had told another train operator about his lost pets. That operator’s train was scheduled to depart from Sierra Madre Villa, but he called the yard and located the lost turtles.

On Monday morning, Brandon’s father, Kevin, drove to the Gold Line yard and picked up the turtles for the trip to their new home in Fullerton.

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San Gabriel Valley Service Sector General Manager Jack Gabig, left, led a groundbreaking ceremony, Feb. 3, for a new Metro bus operations building in El Monte. Joining him, from left, were Metro Bus Operator Debra Simental, Deputy CEO John Catoe and employees of San Gabriel Valley Division 9. Photo by Bill Heard



Ground Broken for Division 9, SGV Sector Transportation Building

BY JIMMY STROUP

(Feb. 7, 2006) Seventy-five San Gabriel Valley Metro operators, maintainers, administrative staff and management turned out, Feb. 3, to watch the first scoops of dirt removed from the parking lot that will soon be the site of a new building to house Division 9 transportation and sector offices.

Sector General Manager Jack Gabig was there to help do some of the heavy lifting and to enjoy the beginning of the end of a project he's been working on for several years. The mayor-elect of El Monte and members of the sector Governance Council were also there to join him in the celebratory groundbreaking.

"Over the last three and a half years, a lot of people at Metro have been focused on some great improvements here at El Monte," Gabig said. "This will be the first major improvement at an operating division in over 20 years, so it's quite a milestone for the agency and it's been a long time coming."

He thanked the project team – led by Deputy Executive Officer of Facilities-Operations Denise Longley – for all their effort in getting the project rolling, saying that the new building was needed to

accommodate the future growth of the agency in the San Gabriel Valley.

"This will be a three-story, 45,000 square foot, contemporary building. It will allow for a 50 percent growth in our operations here at Division 9. That's 50 percent more buses, 50 percent more people and 50 percent more activity into the future," Gabig said.

'Thinking long-term'

"We don't expect that we're going to grow to that capacity in the immediate future," he said. "But we're planning and thinking long-term, and this building is the centerpiece of that expansion hope."

Deputy CEO John Catoe was also there to celebrate the groundbreaking. He said the new building was just the beginning of an agency-wide push to improve the facilities in other divisions.

"We plan for modifications and upgrades to all our operator areas in the various divisions throughout the system, as well as upgrades to the maintenance divisions over the next two years," Catoe said.

Gabig said the \$11.8 million structure is being designed and built with environmentally-conscious materials, making it a model of efficiency as well as an architectural beauty.

"This modern glass architecture will be, we believe, a real enhancement to not only this specific facility, but to the city of El Monte and to any future development," he said. "We think this will complement future redevelopment of the entire complex here, as well as adjoining properties."

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TOS Steve Rank pilots the poster Metroliner in ad campaign prior to the opening of the Metro Orange Line.



Orange Line Riders Overwhelmingly Approve of Service

- May be helping cut traffic on the 101 Freeway
- [More>](#) Poll Shows Riders Like Metro's Attention to Basic Services

By DAVE SOTERO

(Feb. 7, 2006) In a recent survey focusing on the Metro Orange Line, riders registered overwhelming approval of the service.

More than 90 percent of respondents indicated they normally have a seat for their trip and that they like the Metro Liner buses and the pre-paid boarding system.

The North Hollywood station is the primary destination for riders, indicating that the Orange Line complements the Metro Red Line.

Fifty-seven percent of riders who said they drove alone or carpooled prior to the opening of the Metro Orange Line also used the 101 Freeway to complete their trip, suggesting that Orange Line service may be helping to offset 101 Freeway traffic.

Thirty-six percent of Orange Line respondents said they had a car available to complete their trip (compared with 28 percent system wide).

Also noteworthy, the survey found that 31 percent of Orange Line riders are new riders and riders who have used Metro for less than a year.

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Passengers on the Metro Gold Line outnumber drivers on the 210 Freeway in this photo taken shortly after the opening in 2003. Photo by Juan Ocampo.



Poll Shows Riders Like Metro's Attention to Basic Services

- Poll surveyed nearly 18,000 bus and train riders
- [More>](#) Orange Line survey also reveals high rider approval ratings

By KIM UPTON

(Feb. 7, 2006) Two surveys, one scanning overall customer satisfaction and the other focusing on the Metro Orange Line, gave Metro high marks for innovation, as well as for quality of essential services.

In one of the largest surveys of its kind -- this one polling nearly 18,000 riders last fall -- customers were asked to relate their experiences in a self-administered written survey.

"We asked customers to rank us on such things as safety, comfort and added amenities and we were pleased that some of the efforts we are making in basic services -- like adding more buses to lines when we see those lines growing in popularity -- are being noticed and appreciated," said Metro's Jeff Boberg, who designed the survey.

A majority of customers -- 80 percent -- now find a seat, versus 69 percent just three years ago. Customers also said they feel safe at bus stops (80 percent) and when riding the system (87 percent). And 79 percent said operators are courteous.

"Not only are riders feeling confident about essential services, such as driver courtesy and safety on and off buses and trains, they're supportive of our efforts to integrate new technology into the system," Boberg said.

Approve of TV monitors

Eighty-six percent of bus riders approve of the TV monitors that broadcast current news and sports headlines, stock quotes, word games, trivia questions and snippets of vintage television shows.

Seventy-six percent of riders approve of a redesign that makes timetables easier to read and understand.

While more people are consulting the Metro web site for information on how to plan bus or rail trips, join a carpool, find a Park & Ride lot near a Metro station and purchase monthly Metro passes, the number is still low – just 37 percent.

“So, we should probably work on getting the word out about the Web site’s ease and usefulness,” Boberg said.

Overall, more than 4 out of 5 customers think the Metro image is improving (85 percent) and see a continued trend toward better service (83 percent).

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Producer Bernie Caulfield, center in gray jacket and jeans, readies the cast and crew for the next scene of the ABC-TV show, "*In Justice*." Photos by Bill Heard.



Metro Headquarters Takes Starring Role in ABC-TV Drama

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Feb. 8, 2006) Metro Headquarters served as a stand-in for the Oakland Federal Courthouse, Wednesday, during filming for an episode of the new ABC-TV series, "*In Justice*."

Members of the cast, extras, camera crews and technicians – about 125 in all – along with their gear and vehicles crowded onto the Plaza near the East Portal for outdoor scenes.

Later in the day, filming was scheduled for the lobby, 3rd floor and balcony overlooking the Plaza. The crew, led by director Miller Tobin and cinematographer Bill Roe, were to shoot a total of six scenes at the Gateway Building.

Photos by Bill Heard



Cinematographer Bill Roe, with camera, prepares to shoot a scene in front of Metro Headquarters.

"In Justice" is a production of Touchstone Television of Culver City. It airs Fridays at 9 p.m. and stars Kyle MacLachlan (*Twin Peaks*, *Sex and the City*) as Atty. David Swain and Jason O'Mara (*The Agency*) as his chief investigator, Charles Conti.

They investigate cases in which people may have been wrongly convicted of crimes they didn't commit. Also in the cast are Marisol Nichols (*Blind Justice*), Constance Zimmer (*Good Morning Miami*) and Daniel Cosgrove (*Beverly Hills 90210*).

"We appreciate Metro's working so quickly with us and making it happen and everybody putting up with us for a day," said Bernie Caulfield, a producer for the TV show. "Our director loves the location and our cinematographer said, 'This is fantastic.'"

Communications Manager Herman Hagan, Metro's liaison with Hollywood, coordinated the day's filming with Touchstone.



Series star Kyle MacLachlan as Atty. David Swain rehearses a scene in which he leaves the Oakland Federal Courthouse following the successful outcome of his latest *"In Justice"* case.



A technician makes a phone call between takes.

Kyle MacLachlan, star of the ABC-TV show *"In Justice,"* takes a break before his next



scene.



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Caltrans to Build New Type of Soundwall on I - 10 Freeway

- Metro providing \$1.14 million for the demonstration project

(Feb. 8, 2006) Local and state officials attended a Caltrans groundbreaking for a new type of soundwall, Feb. 3, on the westbound Santa Monica (I-10) Freeway in West Los Angeles.

The \$2.1 million poured-in-place concrete barrier, to be built between Motor and Military avenues, will be the first of its kind in Los Angeles County. Metro is providing \$1.14 million in Prop. C 25 percent funds for the demonstration project.

Rather than the traditional stacked concrete-block wall, the wall will be constructed of shaded brushed concrete with architectural features. The project will take about six months to complete.

Data gathered from the new construction procedure will be used to evaluate future cost -savings and other efficiencies.

Officials who attended the ceremony included Assembly Member Karen Bass, County Supervisors Yvonne Burke and Zev Yaroslavsky, and LA Councilman Herb Wesson.


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Expo Construction Authority Now Hiring for Key Staff Positions

By RICK JAGER

(Feb. 8, 2006) The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority is now filling key staff positions in preparation for the start of construction on the nine-mile light rail from downtown LA to Culver City.

Individuals who wish to apply for positions with Expo are encouraged to e-mail resumes to EXPOjobs@metro.net or mail them to CEO Rick Thorpe, Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

There are exciting career opportunities for qualifying candidates interested in a rewarding career with a team of professionals overseeing the construction of the light rail project.

Some of the open positions include; Chief Project Officer, Contracts/Risk Manager, Director of Finance, Director of Engineering & Construction, Director of Project Management, Government/Community Relations Manager, Government/Community Relations Representative, and Secretary/Receptionist.

Construction on the \$640 million Exposition Line project is expected to start this summer. A future second phase would extend the light rail line to Santa Monica.

For additional information and to look at other Expo career opportunities visit www.buildexpo.org.


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Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa asked Los Angeles commuters to join him in his "Ride with the Mayor" program by using the new Metro Gold Line express service and other forms of mass transit. Joining the mayor at the kickoff of the express service were, from left, LA City Councilman Ed Reyes, Metro Director David Fleming, Deputy CEO John Catoe, Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Director John Fasana and CEO Roger Snoble.



Mayor Leads VIPs in Demonstration of New Gold Line Express Service

By JIMMY STROUP

(Feb. 9, 2006) Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and several Metro Board members were among the first invited to try out the new express service on the Metro Gold Line, Thursday, during a demonstration ride to the Sierra Madre Villa station.

The express service, which starts regular service on Feb. 13, will depart every half hour in morning and evening rush periods. Instead of stopping at all 13 stops on the Gold Line's route, the new service stops at only five, shortening travel from end to end by five minutes.

Photos by Bill Heard



Commuters arriving at Union Station pass under a banner promoting the Metro Gold Line's new express service.

"Now, although we already have great service between the San Gabriel Valley and Downtown Los Angeles, we want to do something to make that service even better," Villaraigosa said during a morning news conference at Union Station. "[The express service] will zip passengers between the Sierra Madre Villa station and Pasadena and Union Station in less than 30 minutes."

Normally, it takes 34 minutes to ride the Gold Line between Union Station and Sierra Madre Villa. The new service, though, reduces that time to 29 minutes—a 15 percent reduction.

Express trains won't interfere

Trains will be marked with "Express" on the headsigns and on placards on the dash, making them easily distinguished from trains running the full route. The express trains won't interfere with or slow down the trains running the full route, either.

Director John Fasana said the express service would help people make the best use of their time, as well as reduce automobile emissions and traffic congestion. Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Metro Council Member Ed Reyes and Director David Fleming also spoke supporting the new, timesaving service.



Operator Glenda Murrell prepares to take VIPs assembled for the kickoff of the new Metro Gold Line express service on a demonstration ride departing from Union Station.

"You can be much more efficient in your daily commute by taking advantage of the new Metro express service on the Gold Line," Fasana said. "It'll shave a few minutes off your [travel] time, add relaxation to your trip and make you more productive in the workplace, as well."



CEO Roger Snoble said the new Metro Gold Line express service is the latest example of Metro's expanding network of Metro Rapid lines, Metro Express and other commuter services.

CEO Roger Snoble echoed these sentiments, citing Metro's introduction of freeway express lines, Metro Rapid lines and the Metro Orange Line as examples of the dedication to improving transit wherever it can.

"Metro Gold Line express service is the most recent example of how Metro is working to achieve substantial transit time reductions across LA County," he said.

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Officials to Review State Infrastructure Proposal at Mobility 21 Coalition Meeting Friday

By KIM UPTON

(Feb. 9, 2006) Caltrans District 7 Director Douglas R. Failing and U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer of Oregon are among those scheduled to attend the next Mobility 21 Coalition meeting on Friday, Feb. 10.

Topic of discussion for the meeting will be Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's \$222 billion infrastructure proposal that includes road, highway and rail improvements earmarked for Los Angeles and Orange counties.

The Feb. 10 meeting is set for 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., in the 1st floor conference room of the Caltrans District 7 Administration Building, 100 S. Main St., Los Angeles. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The initiative is being led by Metro and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Automobile Club of Southern California. The coalition has been actively advocating at the state and federal level on vital transportation issues including funding.


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Exposition Line Board Names Rick Thorpe Permanent CEO

(Feb. 9, 2006) The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board selected Metro Construction Chief Rick Thorpe as the Authority's permanent chief executive officer during its Feb. 2 meeting at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

As CEO, Thorpe will provide direct management oversight during construction of the Expo Line and will oversee preparation of specifications, bid processes and contract awards, and monitor construction contracts, procurement, consulting and project management services.



Rick Thorpe

Thorpe joined Metro in November 2003. Previously, he had served as CEO of the Pasadena Blue Line Construction Authority and, before that, as program manager for the first segment of Salt Lake City's 19.6-mile TRAX light rail system. Earlier, he was responsible for building six segments of the San Diego Trolley network.

The Board authorized Thorpe to negotiate and submit for approval a design-build contract with FCI/Fluor/Parsons, the top-ranked firm bidding on the design/build contract for the Expo Line.

If no agreement can be reached, the CEO was authorized to negotiate with the second-ranked firm, Mid-City Constructors JV. If that negotiation also fails, the CEO was directed to terminate negotiations and propose procurement alternatives to the Board.

Finally, the Expo Board adopted a resolution directing the CEO to file an application for State Disability Insurance with the California Employment Development Department. Once the application is approved by the Department, employee contributions can be made to the State Disability Insurance fund.

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Southland Transit Official Charged with Illegal Sale of Day Passes

- Detective said passes, money changed hands at suspect's home
- Contract technician arrested in cash thefts from TVMs
- TVMs have been modified to halt use of arcade tokens

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Feb. 10, 2006) A Southland Transit operations manager charged with grand theft and embezzlement for allegedly selling Metro \$3 day passes to illegal street vendors is scheduled for arraignment, Feb. 20, in Compton Superior Court.

Bertha Island, 49, of Compton, was arrested at her home, Jan. 31, after Sheriff's Detective Keith Schumaker observed her selling three books of 50 day passes with a total value of \$450 to a street vendor.

A search of Island's home turned up books of day passes dated for use Feb. 2, 2006, and \$150 in cash she allegedly received from the street vendor.

Island was booked at the Sheriff's Century Station and held on \$20,000 bond, although she later made bail. Her former employer, Southland Transit, is under contract to provide service on six Metro lines in the San Gabriel Valley from a bus yard in Baldwin Park.

"She had been doing this for well over a year, is my best guess," said Schumaker, who followed the trail to Island through street contacts he made over a period of five or six months.

Since September 2005, Schumaker also has arrested three suspects who had bus keys in their possession. They used the keys, he said, to break into buses and steal day passes left unattended. Bus operators are required by Metro policy to take the passes with them if they leave their bus.

Stealing from TVMs

Schumaker also worked closely with the Revenue Collections Department and Metro Security to catch a contract technician who allegedly was stealing cash from ticket vending machines (TVMs) while he serviced them.

GFI employee Greg Galloway was arrested, Jan. 6, and charged with felony burglary and grand theft. "I believe he took \$10,000 in December, alone," said Schumaker.

Revenue officials pinpointed another fare media scam – the use of arcade tokens to trick TVMs into giving back Metro tokens – last October. The scam was especially prevalent on the Metro Blue Line.

The problem began with the installation of new TVMs. Once it was discovered, the TVMs were modified to restrict the number of tokens a machine could issue at one time, according to Beverly Williams, senior supervisor in Cash Counting. By the time the scam was halted, Revenue Collections had accumulated 26,000 arcade tokens.

Metro has continued to replace old TVMs with new ones on all rail lines. A total of about 325 new machines, which have been modified to include the anti-theft safeguards, will be installed throughout the rail system.

To date, new TVMs have been installed on the Metro Gold, Blue and Green Lines and at Union Station and 7th and Metro. Installation of new machines on the Metro Red Line will begin, Monday, at the North Hollywood station.

Schumaker said he and other Transit Services Bureau detectives are expanding their investigations and more arrests are anticipated in the near future.



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Mark Clifford's spectacular photograph captured Metro's Valentine's Day message on Feb. 14, 2005. The Gateway Building will again light up the downtown skyline with love on Tuesday night.



Photography by Mark Clifford

From Metro, with Love

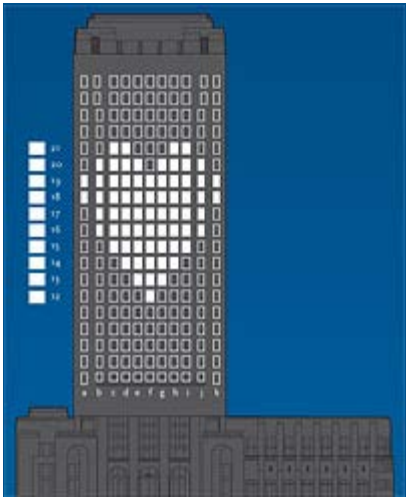
Employees will turn on the Heartlight for all of LA to see.

- Consider it a Valentine's Day card to Los Angeles from Metro.

By GAYLE ANDERSON
(Feb. 10, 2006) Metro Headquarters will cast a romantic glow on downtown Los Angeles Tuesday as nine-story hearts of light shine from all four sides of the Gateway Building in the second annual Valentine's Day message.

"It's a way to show Los Angeles we care," says Neil Sadler of Metro's Design Studio. Sadler and a team of designers will work with General Services to arrange heart-shaped configurations of office lights and window blinds during the evening hours of Valentine's Day.

But it will take the whole building to do it.



How it works: Blueprint outlines configuration of office lights and window blinds that creates the nine-story hearts. Employees will close the blinds on all floors on Tuesday afternoon and leave the blinds accessible for the Valentine's Day team to reopen in the shape of a heart.

“We ’re asking Metro employees who share or face a window to close the blinds by 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon,” says Sadler. “We’re also asking employees to leave the blinds accessible for the Valentine’s Day team, who will come around to each floor and open certain blinds to create the heart shape.”

The light display will become visible at sunset and end at 10 p.m. when the building’s office lights automatically shut off for the night.

As the skyscraper sparkles in the downtown skyline, the Heart Lights will be visible throughout the region and cast a glow on traffic along three freeways – I-5, I-10 and I-101.


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Free Rides for LAPD Officers Among Board Committee Items for February

(Feb 14, 2006) Free rides for LAPD officers and a deal for new articulated buses are among the items before Board committees in February.

Item 11, Fare Exemption for LAPD.

LAPD officers in "Class A" dress uniforms with valid ID would ride the Metro Rail and Bus System free under a motion before the Executive Management and Audit Committee. Officers may not take seats from fare-paying customers and must fulfill their responsibilities as peace officers as circumstances may require.

The Board report notes that "one critical element of a comprehensive security system is the presence of uniformed law enforcement personnel...(who can)...serve as 'eyes and ears' on the transit system." The presence of additional uniformed personnel "will help to increase vigilance against a variety of potential terrorist threats and provide an enhanced sense of safety and security to our patrons and employees."

Item 24, Articulated Buses. A staff report to the Operations Committee says Metro has authorized North American Bus Industries (NABI) to begin production in April of the first of 94 new articulated buses. The Board gave the staff permission, last September, to exercise a \$79 million option for the new buses.

Exercising the option in April allows NABI to fill a gap in its production schedule. In exchange, the company will defer Metro payments for the new buses until July 1, 2006, and will provide Metro with two additional buses at no additional cost.

Item 6, Bicycle Strategic Plan. The Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion to approve two countywide bicycle planning documents. Metro's focus has shifted from arterial bikeways to a strategy of using bicycles with transit.

The Bicycle Transportation Strategic Plan is to be used by local agencies. Its goal is to link bicycles to transit and to integrate bicycle facilities into transportation projects. The Bicycle Transportation Account Compliance Document includes an inventory and mapping of existing and proposed bicycle facilities in the county.

BOARD CALENDAR

Wednesday, Feb. 15

1 p.m. – Public Hearing: Congestion Management Program

1 p.m. – Planning and Programming Committee

2:30 p.m. – Finance & Budget Committee

Thursday, Feb. 16

9 a.m. – Executive Management & Audit Committee

12 p.m. – Operations Committee

Thursday, Feb. 23

Board of Directors Meeting

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County Counsel Promotes Carnevale; Safer to Lead Metro's Legal Office



Steve Carnevale

(Feb. 14, 2006) Assistant County Counsel Steve Carnevale, who has headed Metro's legal office since August 1998, has been promoted to senior assistant and will assume additional responsibilities within the Office of the County Counsel.

Assistant County Counsel Charles Safer has been named to supervise the Transportation Division, reporting to Carnevale. The division employs 14 attorneys and 11 members of the legal staff.

In his new position, Carnevale will continue to be responsible for the Transportation Division, but also will head the County Counsel's Worker's Compensation Division, will oversee the Risk Management Information System and will assume oversight of the Litigation Cost Management Division.

Carnevale's new duties will require him to relocate his office and his secretary, Dorothy Dunson, to the Hall of Administration, probably by the end of February.



Charles Safer

County Counsel Raymond Fortner made the announcement, Tuesday, in memos to the LACMTA Board of Directors and to his staff. "Steve's long history and diverse experience... will be a much needed and invaluable addition to the senior management team," he wrote.

Carnevale, 57, joined the Office of the County Counsel in 1973 and was assigned to Metro in August 1998. According to Fortner, he will "continue to have substantial involvement with MTA legal issues."

Safer, 51, joined the County Counsel's office when the Transportation Division was formed in 1994. He previously served for more than seven years as a staff attorney with the SCRTD, joining the agency in 1987. He is a graduate of USC and Southwestern University School of Law.

"I am confident the Charles will do an excellent job managing the MTA legal program," Fortner wrote in his memo to the Board. "Together with Steve and Charles and the dedicated and talented staff of the Transportation Division, I look forward to continuing to provide the MTA with the highest quality legal advice and representation."


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CEO UpDate

Washington to Metro: Happy Valentine's Day!

By CEO ROGER SNOBLE



CEO Roger Snoble

I'm happy to report that Metro has received an early and very nice Valentine's Day gift from the Bush Administration – a \$100 million budget earmark in New Starts funding for the Eastside Extension construction project.

I was in Washington attending a budget briefing in U.S. Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta's office and got the good news first-hand.

Of course, Congress must now approve the President's FY 2007 budget. Budget deliberations, which will begin in the spring, will include \$39.8 billion in highway funding and \$2.2 billion in air quality improvement funds.

From these funds, we hope to receive \$10 million for bus purchases and \$5 million for intelligent transportation programs such as synchronized traffic lights to speed our Metro Rapid buses through intersections.

I was in the nation's capitol for the first of three trips I will make with other transportation officials in coming weeks. We were briefing our 18 members of Congress, along with members of House and Senate transportation and appropriations committees about local transportation projects and the money required for them.

Showing a solid front

We wanted to show a solid Southern California front in making our funding needs known to Congress. Supervisor Yvonne Burke, who is a member of our Board and who serves as vice-chair of SCAG, led the Los Angeles delegation on this trip. Also participating were officials of transportation commissions in Ventura, San Bernardino, Orange and Riverside counties.

Among those we met with were Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, a member of the House Transportation Committee, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, who serves on the House Appropriations Committee, and Congressman David Dreier, chairman of the House Rules Committee.

We're reminding those in Washington about Metro's recent successes with the Orange Line, with the on-going construction of the Eastside

Extension and with the start-up of the new Exposition Line light rail project, as well as our growing network of Metro Rapid lines and our expanding transit ridership.

Indeed, we're demonstrating that we can put federal dollars to work and make them do good things for the people represented by our congressional delegation.

APTA, Mobility 21 briefings

In March, I'll participate in more congressional briefings with APTA officials, who will talk about transit funding nationwide. Later in the spring, I'll be a part of the Mobility 21 group that will give our local business community an opportunity to present their perspective on our transportation needs.

In case you might think this is all just high-level politicking, it's important to realize that about 10 percent of the funding Metro uses for construction projects and operations comes from the federal government.

If we didn't have that money, we wouldn't be able to serve our customers as we are, and we wouldn't have as many people on the Metro payroll to perform those services.

In closing, let me wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day! Please do something special for the ones you love on February 14th.

February 10, 2006

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Installation of TAP Fareboxes, Validators and TVMs is Moving Forward

By JIMMY STROUP

(Feb. 14, 2006) On schedule and just as projected, Transit Access Pass (TAP) fareboxes, stand-alone validators (SAV) and ticket vending machines (TVM) are popping up on buses and at Metro Rail stations throughout Los Angeles County.

With more than 200 smart card-enabled fareboxes recently installed on all the coaches at North Los Angeles Division 3—and installation well underway on West Hollywood Division 7's nearly 250 buses—the Universal Fare System (UFS) is quickly becoming less a plan and more a reality.



The 'tap' option is ready to go on TVMs, like this one at the Lincoln Heights Station of the Metro Gold Line.

Maintenance Manager Jim Pachan said installation at Division 7 was going very

smoothly, and that crews haven't encountered any significant problems since starting last Friday.

"They installed 65 on the first weekend," he said. "They're hoping to complete the whole project in three weeks."

The "they" Pachan refers to is the UFS contractor Cubic, who's installing the devices in buses and at rail stations under the supervision of the Metro UFS Project Management Team and technical oversight consultant, Booz Allen Hamilton.

Green Line completed

On Metro Rail, installation of 38 SAVs and 60 TVMs on the Metro Green Line was recently completed. James Cohen, Director of Construction Management and a key player in the UFS equipment installation, said the hardest work on the Metro Rail system is already done.

"As far as the installation is concerned, the only thing we've got left to do is the Metro Red Line," he said, adding that even there, a lot of the work has already been completed to speed up the installation process.

Installation started, Monday, Feb. 13, on the Red Line, where 122 SAVs (terminals that deduct payment from TAP cards) and 54 TVMs

(which take cash and dispense tickets, as well) should be completed by mid-March.

A new feature on the Metro Red Line will be the “virtual gates” created by the placement of stand-alone validators. The SAVs will allow patrons with smart cards to walk past and “tap” for their rides in the barrier-free system. The Metro Orange Line will use the same style of fare validation.

Though not yet operational, UFS will enable a traveler on the system to switch seamlessly from rail to bus, or vice versa. The only thing a patron must remember will be to tap the TAP card—conveniently shaped like a credit card—on the SAV, TVM or farebox when entering a bus or train station.

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Tonya Yates, right, describes volunteer activities to employees who approach the Division Ambassador Committee's table at Central City Division 1.



DAC Seeks Employee Volunteers for Community Outreach Events

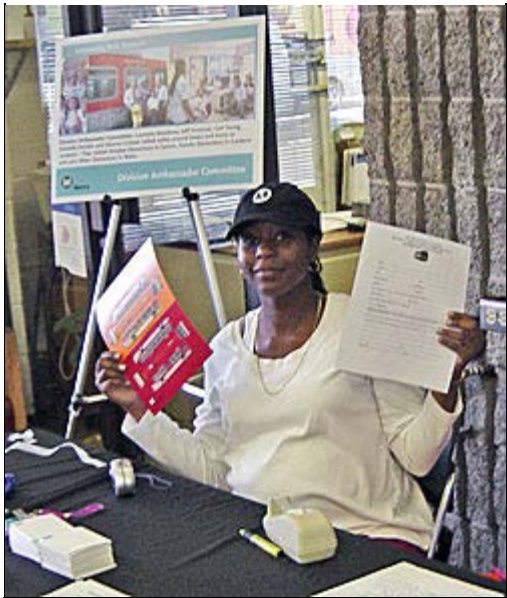
By Reina V. Slutske

(Feb. 15, 2006) The Division Ambassador Committee (DAC) is recruiting Metro employees to volunteer in community outreach events.

Volunteers go to different community events, such as health fairs and rail/bus line openings, and pass out transit safety information, including coloring books with bus and rail safety tips for kids. Sometimes, they attend career days at schools to teach kids about safety.

"A lot of volunteers have kids, so they want to inform other kids on how to act on the bus and how to be safe around the bus," said volunteer Felicia Roberts.

"The program started about 17 years ago with the Rapid Transit District," said Community Relations Manager Helen Ortiz. Then known as the Division Advisory Council, it drew dedicated and committed volunteers who won national recognition for their efforts in fighting graffiti and vandalism



on buses.

120 volunteers

In recent years, DAC has been most active in the South Bay Service Sector. Approximately 120 employees at Arthur Winston Division 5 and Carson Division 18 have become volunteers, donating their time off to help increase transit awareness in their communities.

Felicia Roberts displays fliers and booklets at the volunteer recruiting table for the Division Ambassador Committee at Central City Division 1.

Currently, DAC is trying to gain ground in other divisions, most recently sending volunteers to visit Chatsworth Division 8 and Central City Division 1, and planning to expand to Westside divisions in the future.

“We’re trying to do in each division what we’re doing in South Bay,” said volunteer Tonya Yates.

The focus of today’s DAC has turned to safety.

“We still believe that anti-tagging and vandalism are important and DAC still teaches those, but we might as well promote other messages, too,” said Rich Morallo, communications manager for the South Bay Service Sector.


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Metro and Union Negotiators to Attend Joint 'Interest-Based' Workshops

(Feb. 15, 2006) As this year's labor negotiations get underway, leaders of Metro's three largest unions and the agency's negotiating teams will attend "interest-based negotiations" workshops this month.

A workshop for ATU and Metro negotiators is scheduled Thursday and Friday, Feb. 16-17. TCU and Metro negotiators are to attend a workshop Feb. 22-23, while a workshop for UTU officials and Metro negotiators is scheduled Feb. 27-28.

Deputy CEO John Catoe is leading the Metro team negotiating with UTU and ATU. Brenda Diederichs, executive officer, Labor and Employee Relations, heads the Metro team negotiating with the TCU. Rhonda Hilyer, an independent neutral facilitator, will conduct the workshops.

The workshops are the beginning of this year's negotiations. Their purpose is to outline the process for negotiations, help identify common interests and develop a genuine relationship of trust between the management and labor teams.

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Metro Seeking \$523 Million in State Funding for Expo Line

(Feb. 15, 2006) Metro is seeking \$523 million in state funding for the Exposition Light Rail project – a sum it hopes to receive from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and from the state's 2006 budget.

Metro is asking the CTC to program \$315 million in Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funds for the Expo Line project as part of the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Governor Schwarzenegger's budget proposal to fully fund the Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) from gasoline sales tax funds gives Metro an opportunity to secure another \$208 million in state funds for the Expo Line project as early as March 16, 2006.

The CTC's approval of the state's RIP and TCRP funds also would enable LA County to move forward with other transportation capital improvements.

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Mobility 21 Resolution Supports Transportation Bond Initiative

(Feb. 15, 2006) Officials attending a Mobility 21 Coalition meeting, Feb. 10, passed a resolution supporting a state bond initiative to provide funding for transportation infrastructure that would be proportional to Southern California's needs.

The resolution seeks funding for transportation projects that improve the regional movement of goods while improving the environment, air quality and safety, and providing congestion relief. The resolution also urges the governor and legislature to ensure that the bond provides sufficient funding for new inner and inter-city rail projects.

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City Councilman Herb Wesson Named to Expo Line Board

(Feb. 15, 2006) Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has named LA City Councilman Herb Wesson as Metro's appointee to the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board.

Wesson will replace Martha Welborne, who now will serve as the mayor's alternate member. Wesson previously served on the Board as the alternate for City Councilman Bernard Parks.

Meanwhile, the Board of Supervisors has appointed Vivian Rescalvo as the alternate for Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky on the Construction Authority Board. She replaces Samantha Bricker, who now serves as chief operations officer of the Construction Authority.

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It Will Take Two Men to Step into Arthur Winston's Shoes



TOS Ivan McCargo will be the *oldest* employee at Metro ...

At 89, TOS Ivan McCargo will be the new oldest Metro employee when Arthur Winston retires on his 100th birthday in March. McCargo has no plans to retire in the near future because, he said, "I love my job and I like working with people. I just like the atmosphere here. And the system, of course."

Operator Donald Dube will be the *most senior* employee.

A Metro employee for 47 years, Donald Dube is the most senior employee, second only to Arthur Winston, who has 72 years' service. Dube didn't know he was going to be the most senior after Winston left, but he wasn't surprised. "Well, I have been here a long time," he said.

By JIMMY STROUP

(Feb. 15, 2006) With the upcoming retirement of Arthur Winston on his 100th birthday in March, Metro will find itself with a new oldest working employee and a new most senior employee—both titles Winston held by a good margin.

Though it isn't one person who can fit the bill, it will be one division—Carson Division 18—that will have the newest oldest employee, 89-year-old Transportation Operations Supervisor Ivan McCargo, and the newest most senior employee, 47-year veteran Operator Donald Dube.

Ivan McCargo: Metro's Oldest

An employee at the Chicago Transit Authority before coming west to work in California, McCargo was around and working in transit when Los Angeles still had a trolley line. A Metro employee since 1960, McCargo has been around to see some of the remarkable changes LA transportation has gone through.

"The most dramatic change is, of course, the rail system," he said. "Then the express buses, the Orange Line and the Rapid buses—none of that was

around when I started, either.”

McCargo stopped driving for Metro in 1973 and took the position he still holds today as a TOS. He attributes his longevity mostly to God, but said there were other things you could do to help keep on keeping on.

“The secret is: a positive mental attitude, love people and good healthy living,” he said, adding that he isn’t intending to stop working while his health remains good.

As for being crowned Metro’s oldest employee once Winston retires, McCargo was none too surprised to learn about his new distinction.

“That had occurred to me. I thought you might be along to come down and see me,” he said.

Donald Dube: Metro’s Most Senior

When Dube came to California from his native New Hampshire in 1955, it was the military that brought him here. And after he left the service in 1958, it was a job at Metro that would eventually be responsible for making him stay.

“I didn’t decide to stay here, but the work was so good I just kept on working,” he said. “In fact, when I first started working here, I figured I’d be here for six months. I was going to school at the time and I ran short of cash, so I thought I’d work some then go back to school. I kept putting it off and putting it off, and here it is, 47 years later.”

Now 70, Dube—like McCargo—has watched a lot of changes take place in his nearly 50-year employment with Metro. And one change Dube remembers was a big “change,” indeed.

“When I first started working here, you had to make change for passengers, and keep feeding that changer all the time. That was a lot of hard work,” he said. “They stopped it in, oh, I don’t remember. I started in ‘58, so I’ll take a guess and say ‘68, something like that.”

Also like McCargo, Dube has no intention of retiring in the near future, and said that he couldn’t entertain the notion of just doing nothing.

“A lot of people who I used to work with and meet from time to time, the first thing they tell me is, ‘Don’t retire! It’s hell. I’ve got nothing to do,’” he said.

With Winston’s retirement, McCargo and Dube will have some big shoes to fill. But with neither intending to retire anytime soon, they’ll be around to celebrate many more birthdays and employment anniversaries.

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"Photo Binge," a collage of images by artist Colette Fu, is on display on the mezzanine at the 7th St./Metro Center Station. Below, an image from the Metro Art Lightbox Program installation.



New Photo Installation on Display at 7th St./Metro Center Metro Station

- Photo series satirizes an obsessive urban culture

By DAVE SOTERO

(Feb. 16, 2006) An intriguing installation of work by award-winning artist Colette Fu, entitled "Photo Binge", has been installed in the 7th St./Metro Station as part of the Metro Art Lightbox Program.

The six-month exhibition, arranged in seven large lightboxes on the station's west mezzanine, presents a colorful display that engages Metro riders on their daily commute.

Fu was one of six artists from among 189 applicants whose work was selected by a panel of artists and curators for display in Metro Rail stations.

"The response from our customers has been outstanding," said Jorge Pardo, Metro's public arts and design manager. "The glowing imagery generates lively feedback and makes for a more interesting station environment."

'Photo Binge' satirizes an urban culture that focuses on food, health, nutrition, beauty and the surface of things. The collage of images depicts various binge activities such as eating, exercising and shopping.

“My attempt is to show the destructive impulses...of what has become a daily preoccupation of millions of people,” says Fu.

Two other artists to show work

The work of two other artists will be installed at Metro Red Line stations later this month:

Bay-area artist Stephen Galloway’s work will be displayed on the mezzanine at the Wilshire/Normandie Station. ‘Coming and Going’ features a series of seven images of a mighty tree laid horizontally.

“This series of images addresses environmental concerns by examining the structure of our relationship to the environment,” says Galloway.

Work by Soo Kim, a Los Angeles-area artist, will be located in the Hollywood/Highland station. ‘The Future’s Owned by You and Me’ presents vaguely familiar spaces within the context of transportation.

“The images disrupt the sense of place usually established in photographs, confusing intimacy and distance, difference and sameness,” she says. “In these images, there lives the idea of being somewhere and nowhere simultaneously.”

Established in 2001 to provide quality photography exhibits to a broad audience of transit users, the Metro Art Lightbox Program has drawn submittals from hundreds of artists nationwide.

Past displays have included such well known artists as Robbert Flick, Eileen Cowin, Paul Groh, Charles la Belle, Andrew Z. Glickman and the team of Walter Martin and Paloma Munoz.


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Former Marine Now Leads Arthur Winston Division 5

- Transportation Manager Curley Little rose from bus operator's ranks

By RICH MORALLO

(Feb. 16, 2006) In 1990, after 10 years of operating buses, Curley Little decided to move over to management. "I knew I could supervise," he says. "I was a staff sergeant in the Marines."

From that career shift, Little became a transportation operations supervisor and assistant transportation manager before his most recent promotion to transportation manager at Arthur Winston Division 5. He succeeds Michael Williams-Carr who has left the agency.

"I had been driving Metro buses for seven years and for the Southern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority for three more years before that," recalled Little, who returned to the West Coast from Pennsylvania in 1983.

Today, Little is responsible for more than 400 operators, supervisors and administrative staff and ensures the on-time rollout of 250 buses every day at the Chesterfield Square bus yard.

Ensuring that bus service is provided on time on 10 lines running throughout the city is a challenge that the former Marine readily accepts.

Coordinates the operation

As a manager, Little directs, plans and coordinates the operation of the bus division and also oversees new service implementation and changes to existing service.

"My philosophy is to get the job done with as little stress as possible," says Little, noting that remaining poised under the most stressful circumstances has a calming effect on his staff. "If I'm in control, my people are calm as well."

Little is also a firm believer in promoting communication, integrity and accountability in the workplace and giving his people the space to do their work.

"I develop the right working environment, show the staff that I have confidence in them, give them the training they need, and then let



Division 5 Transportation Manager Curley Little manages a staff of more than 400 and ensures the on-time rollout of 250 buses every day.

them do their jobs," he says.

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Ed Velasquez



Angela Brown

Two Honored with National Awards by Contracts Management Association

By LARRY KELSEY

(Feb. 21, 2006) Senior Contract Administrator Ed Velasquez has been honored with two awards from the National Contracts Management Association (NCMA).

Former Senior Contract Administrator Angela Brown, a founding president of the NCMA LA Gateway Chapter who is now a contract administrator at Northrup Grumman, also received an award. The two were honored, Tuesday, at the chapter's February meeting.

Velasquez received the Arthur G. Muller Annual Volunteer Award and the Fellow Award. He is one of only two members of the national organization selected this year to receive the Muller Award.

Named for one of the "founding fathers" of what is now NCMA, the annual award recognizes members who have served the organization without compensation through their participation, contribution and leadership.

Significant contributions

The Fellow Award is reserved for individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of contracting and to the NCMA. It is the third highest award given by the Association and, this year, only eight members received the Fellow Award designation.

Brown received the Albert Berger Outstanding Chapter Leadership Award. The award is the highest honor the Association bestows for volunteer leadership activities. Brown was one of only three members, nationwide, selected for this award.

The Berger Award, named for a former national president, gives special recognition at the national level to volunteers who demonstrate superior chapter leadership achievements in support of their chapter’s goals and activities.

The award honors the memory of a former National President of the Association who was one of the early leaders of professional development in contract management.



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This month's Go Metro Specials
Metro Riders Get \$4 Off LA Avengers Arena Football Tickets

Plan to see all the action as the Western Division Champion LA Avengers defend their title for the 2006 Arena Football League season in Staples Center and get a Metro discount for \$4 individual tickets.



Metro Offers Customers Discounts and Deals on Metro.net

By KIM UPTON

(Feb. 21, 2006) Something new has been added to the Metro.net Internet web site – special discounts and deals available only to Metro customers.

Each month, the web site offers such bargains as the current \$4 discounts available to Metro riders buying LA Avengers arena football tickets, or the 50-percent-off admission for the home shows at both the Los Angeles Convention Center and the Pasadena Center.

Half-price tickets will soon be available to Metro riders for the Autry National Center in Griffith Park. Customers can check www.metro.net to find out when.

Visitors to metro.net can also plan a bus or rail trip, join a carpool, find a park & ride lot, purchase monthly Metro passes and learn about current Metro projects.

Customers can find Metro's discounts and deals at metro.net, under "Spotlight" and by clicking on "This Month's Go Metro Specials."

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Donald Bliss Resigns as Consent Decree Special Master

- Taking position with International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal



Donald Bliss

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Feb. 21, 2006) Atty. Donald Bliss, who has served as special master of the federal Consent Decree for more than nine years, has submitted his resignation to U.S. District Court.

In a letter to District Judge Terry Hatter, who oversees the case, Bliss said he has accepted a position as U.S. representative on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization with the rank of ambassador. He will move to Montreal to take up that post.

"It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve the Court as Special Master for over nine years in this important case," he wrote. "While, in my judgment, progress has been made, I recognize that work remains to be done."

As his replacement, Bliss recommended Robert C. Vanderet, a retired partner of O'Melveny & Myers. Both men are members of the international law firm headquartered in Los Angeles.

Bliss described Vanderet as "an experienced, fair and thoughtful litigator who, in my judgment, will be sensitive to the concerns and interests of both parties."

Expressed appreciation

In a memorandum announcing his resignation, Bliss expressed appreciation to both sides in the lawsuit and to the attorneys, "who have always shown me every courtesy. I have enjoyed very much working with each and every one of you over the past nine years."

The Consent Decree, which was signed by Metro, the ACLU and the Bus Riders Union in 1996, expires Oct. 29, 2006. The case is formally known as Labor/Community Strategy Center vs. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

In his most recent rulings, dated Nov. 30 and Dec. 9, 2005, Bliss approved Metro's New Service Plan and the agency's revised Transit Service Policy, as well as service changes implemented on 13 bus lines.

In the Nov. 30 ruling, he complimented Metro for adding "a new dimension of bus service to Los Angeles County" with implementation of the Metro Rapid program.

"Since the inception of the Consent decree, the MTA has made the improvement of bus service a high priority," Bliss wrote. "The progress has been substantial."

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Artist May Sun at the recently refurbished East Portal Aquarium. Below, at right, artist Bill Bell tweaks a circuit board to fire up the A-Train at the entrance to the Metro Red Line Station.



^ **Run your mouse over image** to see the movie star passengers, now arriving on the A-Train at Union Station.



Images of 'A-Train' by Deniz Durmus.

Metro Art Restores East Portal Artworks

- Visitors once again enjoy the view of eons of Los Angeles history
- ARTIFAQs: Before you hop on the A-Train, better read ['An A-Train Primer'](#)

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Feb. 23, 2006) Artist May Sun describes the concept of the East Portal entrance to Union Station: "It represents where Los Angeles started," she said on a recent visit to inspect the refurbished artworks that compose the east entrance to the region's rail system.

Completed in 1995, the East

The Union Station East Portal "City of Dreams/River of History" is composed by the

Portal is defined by works of art: the overhead mural of portraits by Richard Wyatt looks down upon a river bed that deposits its silt of artifacts recovered during the construction into a mountain of memories.

The river bed, which symbolizes the Los Angeles River, makes its way across a floor inscribed with fossils and ancient shapes to the refrigerated saltwater aquarium housing fish native to the Pacific Ocean it represents.

The A-Train, an electronic representation of rail operation at the entrance to the Metro Red Line by artist Bill Bell, blinks, rattles, toots and roars over its light-stick tracks as it carries freight, memories and movie stars in a visual representation of time and travel.

The artwork, installed during the construction of Union Station Gateway in the early 1990s, was funded by Catellus Development Corporation in keeping with the city's Public Art requirements.

The decade following the installation took a toll on the monumental artworks. The river bed, hampered by the irreverent tossing of gum wrappers, food scraps, and packaging remnants into its fountains, now flowed into an increasingly glum aquarium, where algae blackened the makeshift sea and depleted the fish population.

Over at the Red Line entrance, the A-Train was skipping a few beats, barely blinking at rush-hour audiences who used to stop and watch the A-Train roar through its entire 9-minute cycle of electronic imagery.

Refurbishment of the artworks was coordinated by Metro Art and funded by Prologis. (Catellus Development Corporation merged with and into ProLogis Sept. 15, 2005.)

artist team of May Sun, Richard Wyatt, and architect Paul Diez.



The river bed lined with rocks from the Los Angeles River and Tujunga Creek deposits artifacts actually excavated from the original Chinatown.



Metro Art and Design Manager Jorge Pardo and conservation technician Angelene Campuzano tour the artworks of the East Portal, where the floor is inscribed with symbols of native flora and fauna.



Line drawings of historical figures are etched onto the aquarium glass.



Jorge Pardo, art and design manager in Metro Art credits the success of the effort to a partnership forged by a solid working relationship with ProLogis. "Together, Metro Art and ProLogis have restored the artistic capital of this highly visible transit environment."

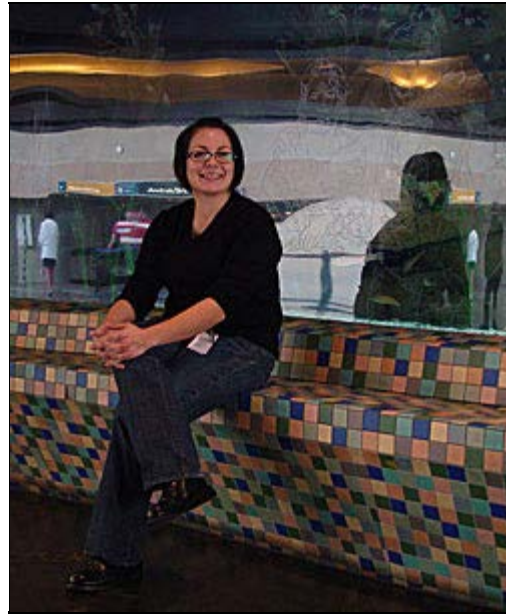
The East Portal lobby is reflected in the 7,500 gallon saltwater aquarium, home to some 65 fish native to the Pacific Ocean.

Photos: Gayle Anderson

Metro Art conservation technician Angelene Campuzano supervised restoration of the artworks.

The work included:

- draining and cleaning the aquarium throughout, including algae removal;
- Repairing the filtration system;
- Filling the aquarium with 7,500 gallons sea water; adding kelp;
- Adding some 60 fish to the five resident Horn Sharks: Senorita Wrasse, Black Smith, Surf Perch, Black Perch, Opal Eye, Kelp Fish, and Sculpin;
- Completing repairs to the soffit above the aquarium, and
- Removing etched graffiti from the acrylic tank.



Conservation technician Angelene Campuzano.

"The aquarium was getting darker and darker, said the artist, May Sun. "Now, kids can see the fish in the 'ocean' and they run to it, excited as before. I am pleased and grateful to Metro Art for taking this kind of quality care."

===



All aboard the A-Train in the East Portal. Photo by Deniz Durmus.

Fixing the A-Train, however, required direct intervention from its creator, artist Bill Bell, who looks a bit like a wizard and acts like one,

too.

Hidden away in a secret room behind the wall is a Macintosh computer from which Bell wields cyber-control of A-Train and the light-stick screen.

He was in that room, late last year, writing code, updating software and fixing links, while Campuzano hovered about the wall, removing fixtures and cleaning glass covers.

"There is the code to write to put images in the right shape and code to get the images colored and operating in a particular way," Bell explained.

Originally, Bell developed several hardware and software programs to create images and distribute data to the light sticks mounted on the wall. Now refreshed, the computer behind the wall continues the magic that operates the A-Train.

With artwork repairs completed, visitors can see clearly, now, the beauty of the East Portal. As the people of the world transport themselves through the "portal" to Los Angeles, they will know where it all began.

Next> Hop on the A-Train: Go to [An A-Train primer](#)

Photo: Gayle Anderson



Artist Bill Bell programs the Mac that runs the A-Train from the other side of the wall.



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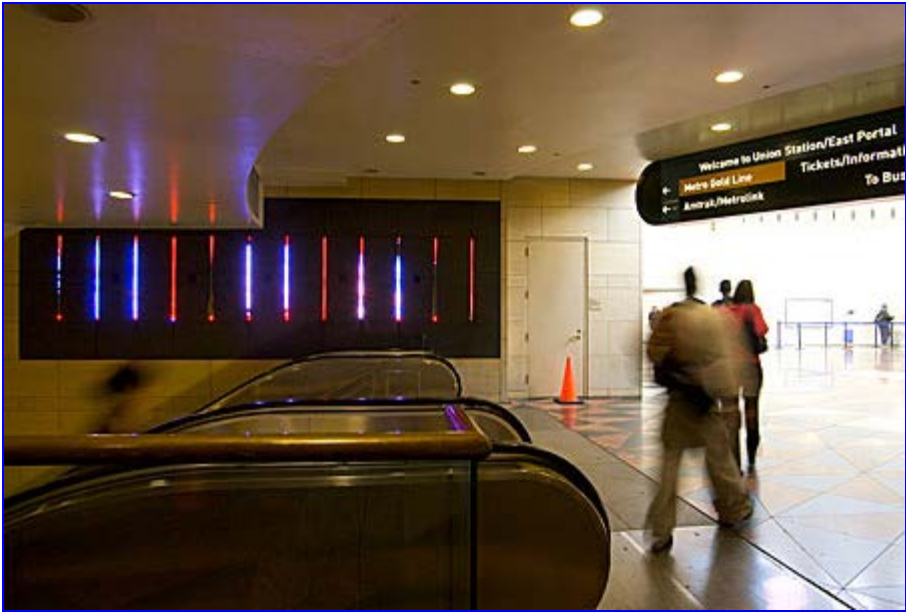
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[ARTIFAQs]

Run your mouse over image to see movie star passengers on board the "A-Train."
Photos: Deniz Durmus



An 'A-Train' Primer

- Many visitors to the East Portal – even commuters who pass through daily – often stop to gaze in wonder at artist Bill Bell's light and sound creation "A-Train." Here's a behind-the-scenes look as this unique work of art as described by Bell in this Q and A. -- *From Gayle Anderson*

Q. What is the "A-Train"?

A. A 9-minute cycle of electronic imagery displayed on light bars mounted on a wall and operated by a computer.



Scene from "A-Train" > An eastbound Union Pacific passenger train crosses the light bar screen. Faces in the windows of the cars are just passing through. Photo by Deniz Durmus.

Q. What do we see on the wall?

- A.** Opening scene. We start out with some simple light play on the light bars – lights move up and down in different colors to attract your attention.
2. Light bars go dark and then we hear the whistle of a diesel engine in the distance. The sound gets closer and closer. Just as it gets up to you, a freight train appears. We see and hear the freight train go by.
3. We see an eastbound Union Pacific passenger train crossing the light bar screen. We see the passenger cars and faces in the windows of the cars. Now we see close-ups of those faces. Wait a minute! They're movie stars. They look awfully familiar. From the Golden Age of Hollywood movies: Charles Coburn, Marilyn Monroe, Gary Cooper, Burt Lancaster. They're going by so fast, you can't say their names fast enough. But you know you know them. On they go. Just passing through.
- 4) Interlude. Now we see a tiny train crossing the screen. It's pulling a mysterious load of letters, all jumbled up. Now a pause. Whoa! Here comes the tiny train back the other way, but this time the letters are assembled in the right order and now we see what it says: Hollywood. It's the Hollywood Sign being hauled into place.
- 5) Now we see a westbound passenger train. It carries more movie stars and they're coming back into town. But they're different movie stars along with a timeless assortment of celebrities. We see Harpo Marx, George Washington, a cave man, the tin man from the Wizard of Oz, and icons recognizable from old movies.
- 6) The train stops. We segue to an interlude of flashing lights.
- 7) The end.

Artist Bill Bell times the interlude from the other side of the escalators to the Metro Red Line station. Notice the plaque at right. What is it for?



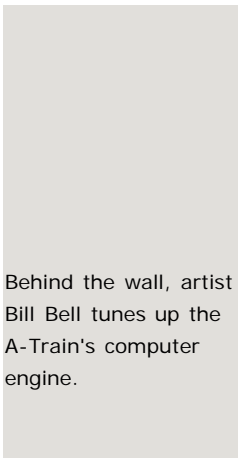
Q. There's a plaque on the wall opposite the installation. What is it for?

A. Discovery, and it doesn't come with instructions. Surprise is one of the elements of the piece. The plaque contains a microphone. Speaking certain phrases into it will trigger an audio response from the *A-Train*. Here are the phrases. Speak each one into the plaque and listen to what the A-Train says back...

- Alexander Graham Bell
- Cheshire Cat
- Duke Ellington
- Harpo Marx
- Johnny Weissmuller
- Lassie
- Louie B. Mayer
- Marilyn Monroe
- Maureen O'Sullivan
- Rin Tin Tin
- Samuel Goldwyn
- What day is it?
- Yip Harburg (Who? He's a lyricist. (*Over the Rainbow, April in Paris, Only a Paper Moon and many, many songs from early Hollywood musicals ...*))
- You Tarzan Me Jane

Q. What is the concept?

A. Create a solid image with unsolid patterns of light.



Behind the wall, artist Bill Bell tunes up the A-Train's computer engine.



Q. How does it work?

A. The light show displays on light bars installed in the wall. The display is operated by a computer located in a utility room behind the display. Several computer programs create images and distribute data to the light sticks. The computer stores the data and operates the lights.

Q. What is a light stick?

A. A bar of light made out of LEDs. There are two different patterns on these light sticks: raindrops, and lights that grow and diminish in the bars.



Quotables

"It's one dimensional TV. With 1DTV, you get a full screen for the price of 5 percent of the full screen. Actually, that's the way video works. The image moves quickly from one set of lights to the next, thereby tricking the eye into following an apparent motion. The eye will actually see the apparent motion because it will fill in the gaps between the light sticks."

Myths: The following statements are not true.

- The longer you stare, the more you see.
- If you say a movie star’s name into the speaker, the image of that particular movie star will flash on the wall.

Little known facts

The number on the freight train engine in the opening sequence was my childhood telephone number.



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Now Online: Fleet Management and Support Services

- [Check it out](#)

(Feb. 23, 2006) MyMetro.net today welcomes a new addition to its growing list of department web pages – Fleet Management and Support Services.

The pages provided by the department are intended to enhance the reporting capabilities of the M3 system by providing four types of reports in a consistent, uniform and simple format.

The reports – bus deployment, M3 system maintenance, trending and diagnostic and performance indicators – will be updated on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis.

The web pages also include a “Training Menu” that directs users to the Transit Operations’ training data base for enrolling in an M3 class. The “Suggestion Box” will allow readers to post feedback, ideas and comments. There’s even a “Tip of the Week.”

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Eastside Extension Tunneling Begins Beneath Boyle Heights

Photos: Luis Inzunza



Tunneling on the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension began, Thursday, when "Lola" – a 2 million-pound, closed-faced earth pressure balance (EPB) tunnel boring machine – started her march through 1.7 miles of earth under Boyle Heights. Twin sister "Vikki" stands ready to begin excavation on her side of the tunnels. Taking the rail line underground was necessary for this part of the 5.9 mile Eastside Extension because of the area's narrow streets.



Creating a 21-foot, 4-inch-wide tunnel under East Los Angeles will be no sweat for "Lola" and "Vikki," two German-manufactured tunnel boring machines. The machines will excavate the dirt and process it through to the back of their 344-foot bodies, while also installing the 8,000-pound concrete tunnel liner segments as they go. At \$10 million each, "Lola" and "Vikki" are a fraction of the \$898.8 million cost for the entire Gold Line Eastside Extension. (2/24/06)

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Metro Staffers Attend ‘Interest-based’ Bargaining Workshop

- Metro and labor union bargaining teams attending similar sessions

(Feb. 24, 2006) Staff members who will support Metro’s bargaining team in this year’s labor negotiations participated in a day-long workshop, Feb. 21, to learn about “interest-based” negotiating.

More than 20 staff members attended the orientation at the Regional Rebuild Center. They included sector general managers; administrative, personnel and benefits managers; division transportation and maintenance staff; safety and risk management staff.

“The orientation session contrasts interest-based bargaining with position bargaining, which is more about posturing,” said Rhonda Hilyer, an independent neutral facilitator, who conducted the workshop. “It’s important to build positive relationships when you’re bargaining.”

The workshop included examples of techniques for effective communications during negotiations, different communication styles and how to translate “messages” accurately during bargaining. Role-playing was used to demonstrate positional and interest-based bargaining.

“People literally communicate in different languages,” Hilyer said. “Even though we all may be speaking English, we may be saying very different things. If we understand that...we can translate the messages accurately.”

Photos: Bill Heard



Deputy CEO John Catoe said adversarial labor negotiations in previous years had impacted customers and employees. He expects interest-based negotiations to produce more positive results during this year’s contract bargaining.

Facilitator
Rhonda
Hilyer leads
a
discussion
during the
interest-
based
negotiations
orientation
session for
Metro staff



Hilyer also is conducting interest-based negotiating workshops for the Metro bargaining team and teams from the ATU, TCU and UTU. The ATU workshop was held Feb. 16-17; the TCU workshop was conducted Feb. 22-23 and the UTU workshop is set for Feb. 27-28.

Asked about the workshop with ATU, Deputy CEO John Catoe said, "It was a very good beginning to the process. Not only did we communicate, we established a high-level respect for each member of the negotiating teams."

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Division 8 Operator John Engels Moonlights as LAPD Officer



Part-time Division 8 Operator John Engels moonlights as a reserve LAPD officer, working mostly out of Hollywood. Engels says a lot of the skills used in driving safely for Metro are the same skills he uses during night patrols for LAPD.

By JIMMY STROUP

(Feb. 24, 2006) A relative newcomer to the Metro family, Chatsworth Division 8 Operator John Engels has an interesting side job: He spends his nights on the Hollywood streets patrolling as an LAPD reserve officer.

Working part-time on morning shifts for Metro, Engels, 50, attended training at the Police Academy on nights and weekends.

"In the reserves, you can schedule the hours that you want to work and you can work out of the division you want to work at," he says. "It's pretty much like the National Guard or the Army Reserve. You do everything the regular guys do. You just do it on hours that fit your schedule."

An early career — and early retirement — as chief financial officer in a publicly traded company left Engels burned out on the world of high finance.

"I got bored looking at stock quotes on the computer all day. I thought, 'What can I do that's different?'" he says. "I didn't want to get back into corporate America. So I says, 'I wonder what this [police department] thing's all about?'"

Quite a task

He decided on the reserves after some advice from a retired LAPD detective friend, and went about testing into the department — which turned out to be quite a task.

"Getting in is really hard: background investigations, polygraphs, physicals, psychological evaluations. And anything can blow you out," he says. "I got through all that, and it was when the city ran out of money, and there were just no classes going on at the academy. And I was bored."

His boredom led him to take a job in December 2003 as an operator for Metro, another career field that had always had him wondering. Until coming to Metro, though, Engels had no idea of the scope of the agency's operations.

"It's been a fascinating experience because it gives you insight into

how things work,” he says. “Now I understand those things a lot better, and it’s the same with the police.”

When most people are relaxing at home, or out to dinner or a club, Engels spends his Friday and Saturday nights in a black and white LAPD patrol car cruising the streets of Hollywood. His experience driving for Metro has trained him to be totally conscious of his surroundings — something vital on a police patrol.

‘Communicate with BOC’

“One of the things I try to do when I’m working out there is to communicate with Bus Operations Control, so they know what’s going on as things are happening,” he says, citing a sudden street closure or a detour as something he’d call in to Metro while on patrol.

Though not what most people seek out as a part-time job, Engels is happy with both his jobs as a way to “interface” with the people in the San Fernando Valley, where he works and makes his home.

Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds only glowing things to say about Engels, and even attended his graduation from the Police Academy last year to show her support.

“John is a wonderful asset to Division 8 and to Metro,” she says. “We’re very proud of him — the job he does for us and the job that he does for the people of Los Angeles.”



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Sector Governance Councils Schedule Monthly Meetings

(Feb. 24, 2006) Metro's service sector governance councils will hold their monthly public meetings in March to discuss various transportation issues.

The following is a list of Metro governance council March meetings:

- **San Fernando Valley Service Sector**, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 1, Marvin Braude Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys.
- **Westside/Central Service Sector**, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday March 7, La Cienega Tennis Center, Sunset Room, 325 S. La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills.
- **Gateway Service Sector**, 2 p.m., Thursday, March 9, The Gas Company, 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey.
- **South Bay Service Sector**, 9:30 a.m., Friday, March 10, Carson Community Center, Room 206, 801 E. Carson, Carson.
- **San Gabriel Valley Service Sector**, 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 14, San Gabriel Valley Sector Office, 3369 Santa Anita Ave., El Monte.



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Dream Keepers

Metro Choir Wows Black History Month Celebration

- [Plus](#), BOC serves up Soul Food and History at annual Exhibit and Luncheon.



(February 28, 2006) Choir Director Renee Willis conducts Metro Choir in a program that included Spirituals, Contemporary and Traditional Gospel Music. The fifth annual Metro Choir Black History Program, "Dream Keepers," drew standing room only crowds on Wednesday, February 22. Dramatization of a dialogue of Rosa Parks, by actress and singer Carrie Walker, guest soloists, praise dancers and congo drums gave this year's event a profound and special meaning. Black History Month events are sponsored by the agency's African American Employees Association (AAEA).



Metro's most senior employee Arthur Winston was honored during the program. At right, Mistress of

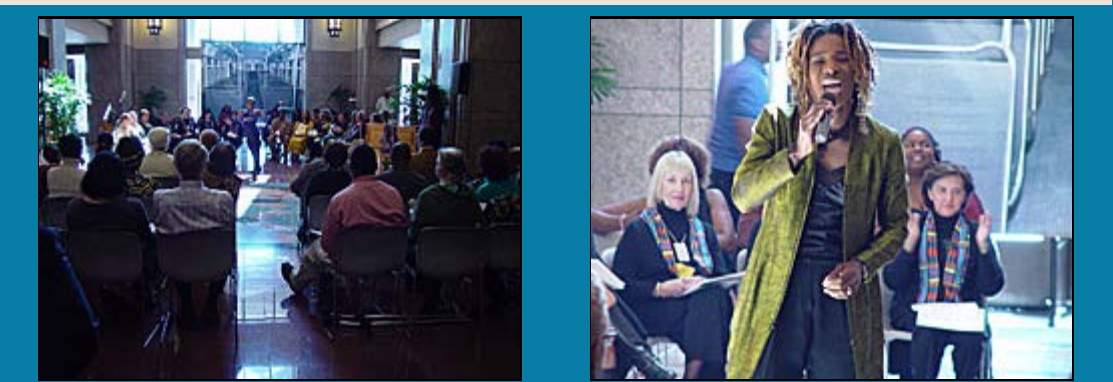
Ceremonies Dana Coffey, general manager of Metro South Bay, set the stage for a variety of performance and presentations. Deputy CEO John Catoe sent words of encouragement to "slow down long enough to appreciate and enjoy each other as we work at Metro. We are a diversified agency full of talents and gifts."



Featured speaker Gerald Francis talked about the importance of family: "We branch out but our family remains the roots and foundation of our ability to change the future." William "Bill" Satterfield hit home with his dramatization of Martin Luther King's speech, "I Have a Dream."



Guests Patryce Horne and Freddie Williams from the Civic Center Choir at the Hall of Administration and guest soloist Betty Gay Dillard join the Metro Choir for closing anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Backdrop is an image similar to the bus where Rosa Parks staked her claim to a simple dignity for all mankind.



Praise dancer Victoria Collins from Monrovia Second Baptist Church, and guest soloist Sherri Bryant drew thunder from the standing room only audience.



Drummers Tony Martin and Doncosta Seawell kept the energy flowing. At right, Tahir Davis directs soloist Patryce Horne and Metro Choir in a performance of "Celebrate our History," a song he wrote.



TOS's Dietra Thompson, above, and Bonnie Bradford transform Bus Operations Control into Black History Month museum for BOC's annual Black History Month exhibit and luncheon.



Stan Casper, proprietor of Shauntay's Catering, dishes up mouth-watering dish of Soul Food for TOS Francisco Chavez. At right, exhibit includes Bonnie Bradford's collection of African figurines.

Photos by Gayle Anderson



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Funeral Services Set for Metro Retiree Annie Coleman

- Wife of General Services Supervisor Joe Coleman

(Feb. 28, 2006) Funeral services are scheduled, Wednesday, March 1, for retired Service Attendant Annie Coleman, who died Feb. 21. She was the wife of General Services Supervisor Joe Coleman.

The service is set for 11 a.m. at the Community Baptist Church, 15854 Citrus Ave., Fontana (909-350-9646). Interment will be at Green Acres Memorial Park and Mortuary, 11715 Cedar Ave., in Bloomfield.

Coleman, 69, joined Metro in August 1979. Over the years, she worked at South Park and Crossroads Depot Division 2. She retired from her last position at the Regional Rebuild Center in August 1998.

She is survived by her husband, Joe, four daughters and two sons.



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Expo Construction Authority Board Sets Thursday Meeting

(Feb. 28, 2006) The Exposition Metro Line Authority Construction Board is scheduled to meet at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 2, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 3rd floor, Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room 381B.

The Board will consider a staff recommendation to award a negotiated Design-Build Contract. On the Consent Calendar item is a staff report on the FY 2007 budget process. The agenda also includes a monthly project status update.



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Metro Could Net \$878,589 from Win in Suit Against Subcontractor

- A jury award of \$102,863 could be tripled to \$308,589; civil penalties could add \$570,000

By DAVE SOTERO

(Feb. 28, 2006) Metro has won a legal victory that could net the agency up to \$878,589 in damages and civil penalties against a subcontractor accused of submitting false claims under a construction contract involving several Metro Red Line stations.

A Los Angeles Superior Court jury found, Feb. 23, that Reno Metal Products, Inc., had knowingly presented or caused 57 false claims to be presented to Metro for work performed at the Hollywood/Highland, Universal City and North Hollywood stations after the contract was awarded in 1999.

The jury awarded Metro \$102,863 for the 57 false claims. Under the California False Claims Act, the monetary damages may be tripled to \$308,589.

An additional civil penalty may be imposed up to \$10,000 for each false claim. Since the jury found that Reno submitted 57 false claims, Metro could also recover an additional \$570,000 in civil penalties.

The hearing for the penalty phase is scheduled for March 21.