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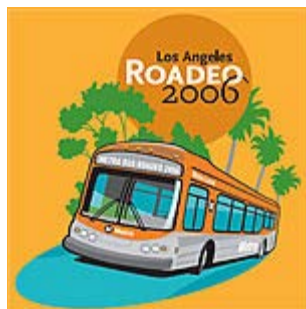
Tuesday, September 26

[Dream Team](#): Veteran champions will represent Metro at APTA Internationals.

[[Metro News Briefs](#)] Expo Authority to Break Ground for New Rail Line; Metro to Promote Stroke Awareness in October; U.S. House Overturns Ban on LA Subway Tunneling; Rail Ops Improves Gold Line Running Times; LA to Receive \$6.2 Million Security Grant; Construction Progressing at Orange Line Canoga Station

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TAP and win! [Employees to test drive](#) Universal Fare System



31st annual Metro Bus Roadeo Operators and mechanics always compete fiercely to represent Metro at the APTA International Bus Roadeo, set for May 2007 in Nashville, Tenn. Winners and photos on Tuesday.

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[Golden Pylon Awards](#): Metro and Others Honor Southland Traffic Reporters

[LA Gateway NCMA Chapter](#) to host panel of experts in procurement

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[Largest class ever:](#) 24 graduate as train operators after completing intensive rail training course.

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[COUNTDOWN>](#) Ned Racine is on the scene at the construction site of the Canoga Park Station

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Metro Prepared for Saturday's Immigrants' Rights March in LA

- March expected to affect 53 bus lines, all rail lines

(Sept. 1, 2006) Metro Bus and Rail operations have developed extensive plans in preparation for Saturday's immigrants' rights march in downtown Los Angeles.

At least 53 bus lines, along with Metro Rail lines, will be affected by the march, which is scheduled to begin about 11 a.m. Marchers plan to assemble beginning about 10 a.m. at Broadway and Olympic, then march north nine blocks along Broadway to City Hall, between 1st and Temple streets for a rally.

According to the permit application filed for the march, organizers anticipate the march and rally could attract 30,000 to 50,000 or more people. Police plan to block off Broadway, Spring, Main and 1st streets around City Hall. The event is expected to conclude about 5 p.m.

Metro has worked with the LAPD's Special Events Unit and will have representatives from Bus Operations Control (BOC), Rail Operations Control (ROC) and the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau stationed at a unified command post near Parker Center.

The BOC has planned detours that will keep Metro buses several blocks away from the march route. Detour signs directing customers to alternate boarding locations will be posted at bus stops near the assembly point, along the march route and in the rally area.

TOSs and deputies assigned

Transportation operations supervisors will be stationed along Broadway, Los Angeles Street, 5th Street and Olive Street to monitor bus service and assist patrons. Sheriff's deputies will be assigned to crowd control at downtown Metro Rail stations.

Buses also will be staged, if required, at predetermined locations around the Central Business District to handle crowds leaving the rally.

Metro Rail plans to run six-car trains on both branches of the Metro Red Line and will make two extra trains available as needed. The Metro Blue Line will operate three-car trains on 12-minute headways and will have five extra trains available to increase service as needed.

The Metro Green and Gold Lines will operate regular 15-minute weekend service with two-car trains, but will have three extra two-car trains available on each line to provide more frequent service if required.

The 53 Metro Bus lines affected by the march are: 2, 4, 10, 11, 16,

18, 20, 21, 26, 28, 30, 31, 33, 38, 40, 42, 45, 48, 51, 52, 53, 55,
60, 62, 66, 68, 70, 71, 76, 78, 79, 81, 83, 84, 90, 91, 92, 94, 96,
333, 439, 444, 445, 446, 447, 460, 484, 485, 487, 490, 720, 740 and
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We're Number One! The Division 3 transportation and maintenance team celebrates the rewards – \$3,000 worth – for winning the Best Performance for a Division award for FY 2006 and the “How You Doin’?” program’s Division of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of FY 2006.



Division 3 Wins 2006 Best Performance for a Division

- Also wins Division of the Quarter, fourth quarter FY 2006

(Sept. 5, 2006) “We’re like the proverbial turtle, we just keep moseying along,” says Maintenance Manager Bill Grunwald, when asked how North Los Angeles Division 3 won the FY 2006 award for Best Performance for a Division.

“It’s normal hard work; paying attention to the details,” he adds, noting that the division maintenance team worked hard all year to reduce road calls in one of Metro’s oldest division bus fleets. “It was a big challenge.”

Division 3 also won the “How You Doin’?” program’s Division of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of FY 2006.

General Manager Jack Gabig congratulates the Division 3 team for its FY 2006 accomplishments, crediting a “good team of employees, supervisors and managers.” From left: Gabig, Transportation Manager Mike Greenwood, Transportation Manager Dan Frawley and Maintenance Manager Bill Grunwald.



"It's due to the focused attention of the management staff and solid, dedicated employees who are here to serve the public," says General Manager Jack Gabig.

Gabig also credited the maintenance team's road call performance and, on the transportation side, the reduction in customer complaints and improved on-time performance. "Those are the ones that impact the customers the most."

"Division 3 had been performing well for a number of years before I got there," says Mike Greenwood, who made the switch back to San Gabriel Division 9 in July after serving as transportation manager for a year at Division 3.

"There's a great group of operators at Division 3, very professional," he said, praising the operators' "positive response" to the new DriveCam video system which helped reduce the bus accident rate.

Dan Frawley, who just returned to Division 3 after a stint as transportation manager at Division 9, said, "They're great people here, top performers. We're standing tall here because everyone performs so well."



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CEO UpDate

Well Done, Team Metro!

Workers' Comp Claims are Down 61 Percent

By CEO ROGER SNOBLE



CEO Roger Snoble

I wish to thank each and every Metro Employee for your commitment to a 'Safety's First' work environment and for your invaluable assistance with preventing accidents in the workplace and reducing Workers' Compensation claims. The data is stunning and our team accomplishment cannot be denied.

Please take time to review the tables below which indicate that 3,264 Workers' Compensation claims were filed in FY 2000 at Metro. In FY 2006, 1,266 claims were filed. This represents a 61 percent decrease in Workers' Compensation claims during this time period.

This is a remarkable accomplishment and the credit belongs to every employee who worked safely, encouraged others to work safely, and to every employee who became part of the team to prevent workplace accidents and thus reduce Workers' Compensation claims. My hat goes off to each you!

The culture that existed five years ago at Metro, a culture that believed that safety was '*not a priority*' and that filing a Workers' Compensation claim to obtain TOWP (time off with pay) was an '*employee entitlement*', is difficult to find at Metro today. It's a new day at Metro and it's a better day, with a better future.

New WC Claims Reported by FY							
	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06
Indemnity	2400	1774	2083	1570	1162	1071	963
Medical	864	1001	721	417	445	361	303
Total claims	3264	2775	2804	1987	1607	1432	1266

With the single exception of a 29-claim increase in FY 2002, this Workers' Compensation chart shows a steady decline from 3,264 claims in FY 2000 to 1,266 claims in FY 2006 – a 61 percent reduction.

In addition to our very successful safety program, Metro has launched an equally successful program to deter, detect and prosecute fraud and abuse of the Workers' Compensation Program.

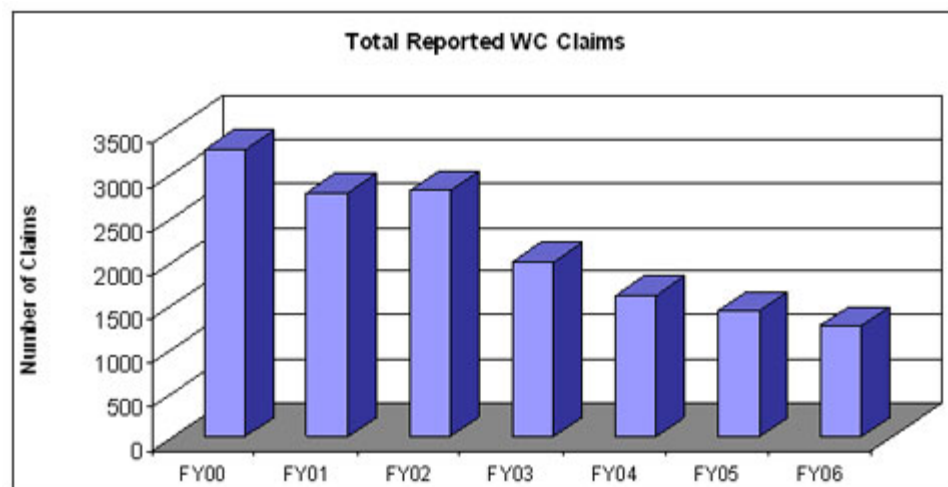
If you are hurt on the job, we will continue to ensure that you receive good, appropriate and timely medical care. But because we value every employee, we will continue to take steps to protect against Workers' Compensation fraud and abuse. This effort will ensure the security and

stability of the agency and of each member of our Metro employee family.

So, I ask employees to reflect upon what has happened to former employees who filed a fraudulent claim, exaggerated a condition or otherwise committed a crime or gross misconduct by attempting to obtain paid time-off from Metro that was not warranted by the facts. It's just not worth it, and those former employees paid a significant price for their decision!

We want to continue the precedent set by our valued employees over the last five years of hard work, attention to safety and duty, and honest reporting of the facts. This will help ensure that Metro will continue to lead the state and the nation in providing a safe work environment and a healthy workforce.

Thank you for your hard work and for contributing to this remarkable Metro success. Your accomplishment has not gone unnoticed by Metro management, executive staff or by the Metro Board of Directors. We all join together to commend each of you!



The 61% decline in Workers' Compensation claims from FY 2000 to FY 2006 forms a stair-step from 3,264 claims down to a new low of 1,266 claims.

September 5, 2006


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Non-Represented Employees' 3% Raise Due in Sept. 29 Paychecks

- 'Retro' payment also to be included in the paycheck

(Sept. 6, 2006) Non-represented employees eligible for a 3 percent pay hike for FY 2007 will see the salary increase in paychecks of Friday, Sept. 29.

The "retro" payment also will be included in the Sept. 29 paycheck with earnings code RPD. The retro payment will cover the raise from July 1 to Sept. 9.

Employees eligible for the full 3 percent raise must have been a full-time or part-time non-contract employee as of June 30, 2006.

To be eligible for the raise, an employee must have received an overall performance rating of effective, commendable or outstanding; and must not be on probation.

The pay increase will be pro-rated for those hired during FY 2006. The increase will be effective from the first day after the employee completes the required probationary period.

Raise to be pro-rated

The raise also will be pro-rated for employees who were promoted during the fiscal year and will be based on how long the employee worked at the new salary level.

Employees not eligible for the 3 percent pay increase include those hired on or after July 1, 2006; interns and as-needed employees.

As a result of the recent increase in salary ranges, some employees are now below the minimum of their salary range. These employees will receive the 3 percent pay raise – or a greater amount if necessary – to bring them to their minimum salary level, according to Human Resources Director Stefan Chasnov.

The full 3 percent will be added to the salary base of employees who will remain within their pay range after the raise. Employees who currently are above their salary range will not receive a raise.

Because the paycheck of Sept. 29 will be the third paycheck of the month, it will not reflect deductions for medical, dental or the Flexible Spending accounts. State and federal taxes, however, will be deducted.





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59 Metro Bus Lines to be Affected by Sunday’s LA Triathlon

By RICK JAGER

(Sept. 6, 2006) A total of 59 Metro Bus Lines will experience delays or will be detoured in the downtown Los Angeles, Echo Park, Hollywood, Fairfax, West Los Angeles and Venice areas, this Sunday, to make way for the 7th annual LA Triathlon.

Hosted by the City of Los Angeles, several thousand runners, bike riders and swimmers are expected to take part in the 31-mile event.

The Triathlon will begin with a swimming event at Venice Beach. The bicycle portion will run north on Venice Boulevard, Fairfax and Highland avenues to Hollywood Boulevard, then along Sunset Boulevard to the Central Business District. The running route will be primarily along Hill, Temple and 1st streets.

Buses will be detoured between 6 a.m. and 12 noon. Cumulative service delays may be experienced throughout Metro’s service area.

Signs will be posted at the bus stops impacted by the race and will direct passengers to the nearest boarding locations.

All Metro Rail trains will run as scheduled without interruption. Passengers are encouraged to take Metro Rail when possible to avoid delays resulting from the Triathlon.

Metro Bus lines affected by the Triathlon are: 2, 4, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 26, 28, 30, 31, 33, 37, 38, 40, 42, 48, 51, 52, 53, 55, 60, 62, 66, 71, 90, 91, 92, 94, 105, 156, 163, 180, 181, 200, 201, 204, 206, 207, 210, 212, 217, 304, 305, 439, 444, 445, 446, 447, 460, 484, 485, 487, 534, 550, 603, 720, and 754.



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Save This Emergency Phone Number

Metro Employee Emergency Hotline > 1-877-955-5234

1-877-955-5234 – The New Employee Emergency Hotline Number

(Sept. 7, 2006) There's a new phone number to call to connect with the Metro Employee Emergency Hotline – 1-877-955-5234.

In an emergency – a work stoppage, terrorism alert, earthquake, fire or other natural or manmade disaster – employees can call the number to get updates on working conditions at Metro or the status of transit operations.

By calling the Employee Emergency Hotline, employees also may receive instructions about where and when to report to work. In addition to calling the Hotline, employees should stay tuned to local news broadcasts for emergency information.

The new toll-free number, provided by AT&T, is capable of handling up to 800 simultaneous calls.

With the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy coming on Monday, Sept. 11, it's important to remember that under California law, all Metro employees are considered to be disaster service workers during a state of emergency.

As essential workers, employees must report to their normal worksites or to designated locations, if requested to do so.

That number again: 1-877-955-5234.



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Help Metro Find Good Bus Operators – and Make Some \$\$\$

- Agency needs almost 300 operators and will pay cash awards for recruiting successful candidates

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Sept. 7, 2006) Want to help out Metro...and maybe make a little cash for your effort? Here's your chance.

Metro needs to fill almost 300 bus operator vacancies. Under the New Employee Referral Program, the agency is offering \$300 to any full- or part-time employee who recruits a successful external job candidate for the position.

That means the bus operator candidate – a new referral, not a current or ex-employee – has to complete six weeks of bus operator training and make it through the 150-day probationary period.

The employee referring the candidate will be paid \$150 at the end of the candidate's successful training period and another \$150 when the new operator completes probation.

So, how do you refer a potential bus operator candidate? Here's a probable scenario:

You meet a man or woman you think would make a good bus operator. Metro is looking for candidates who are at least 21 years old, have had a valid driver's license for a minimum of two years and have a satisfactory driving record.

The candidate also should be able to speak, read and write English and have at least six months of experience working with the public.

Invite the candidate to Metro

If you work at Gateway, consider inviting the candidate to meet you at Metro Headquarters to complete the paperwork. You escort the candidate to the Employment Office on the Plaza, where the candidate asks for a job application and you ask for the "New Employee Referral Form – Bus Operations."

When you and the candidate have completed the forms – and the candidate's information and signature is on both forms – they are attached and handed in to the Employment Office for processing.

For employees who work at bus divisions, it probably will work better if the employee completes the referral form and gives it to the candidate either in person or by FAX to attach to the job application form. Headquarters employees also may prefer to use this method.

The application and referral process also may be handled electronically. The MTA Job Application Form can be found by going to the Human Resources web page and clicking on Forms, Etc., then finding the form in the alphabetical listing.

If the process is done electronically, the New Employee Referral Form you sign must be submitted via interoffice mail within a week after the candidate submits the job application or it will be disqualified for the cash award.

Falsification of the candidate's signature also will disqualify the application.

For more information about the New Employee Referral program, contact Jeannette Bell at 922-7134. The Employment Office also has copies of a bus operator recruiting pamphlet, entitled "America's best offers you the best. Drive a Metro Bus," that describes the pay and benefits available to bus operators.

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Flag of Freedom: Senior Contract Administrator Vicki Lechuga presents an American flag and a Marine Corps certificate to Procurement Chief Lonnie Mitchell, left, and Bruce Feerer, DEO Procurement, on behalf of her son, Gunnery Sgt. Leopoldo Lechuga, who just returned from a seven-month deployment in Iraq. "He wanted everyone to know how much it really means to each and every one of them to know that you support them with your good wishes and your prayers. He said it meant everything."



On Deployment: Marine Gunnery Sgt. Leopoldo Lechuga, at right, who serves with Combat Logistics Battalion 7's motor transport unit, planned convoys that carried supplies on a daily basis to other Marine units. He is shown here with members of his unit in Al Asad, Iraq. This

was the first combat deployment in his 17-year Marine Corps career. Lechuga, 35, and his wife, Renee, live in Temecula with their three children, Gabriel, 14; Samantha, 12; and Celeste, 17 months.

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The work of Design Studio staff, pictured below, is featured in Communications Arts magazine.



National Arts Journal Highlights Metro Design Studio's Work

(Sept. 12, 2006) "Thanks in part to the work Metro Design Studio is doing, more and more people in the single-occupancy-vehicle capital of the world aren't taking the freeways. They're taking the subway or the bus," begins an article in *Communication Arts*, the design world's premier journal.

A 10-page lead article in the September/October issue describes the Design Studio's creative process and the eye-catching posters, ads, brochures, magazines and merchandise designed by the 17-member staff.

It's the first time the magazine has featured the work of a transportation agency's graphic design department.

"Every time we design something that convinces one person to try Metro," the magazine quotes Creative Director Michael Lejeune, "we have a direct impact on traffic, air quality and quality of life for everyone who lives here."

The story highlights work by Lead Designer Neil Sadler and designers Melissa Rosen, Elizabeth Bain, Sharleen Yoshimi, Theresa Renn and others.

It includes photographs and reproductions of Metro timetables, passes, maps, logos, bus paint schemes and a photo of the Design Studio crew on board a train.



Poster encourages commuters to try the Metro Gold Line.

“This is design with a purpose, design that moves people,” Sadler says in the story. “It can impart information and still be bright and engaging.”

“Our customers deserve good design,” Communications Chief Matt Raymond is quoted as saying. “It enhances their experience and attracts new riders. Metro’s numbers bear it out. We’re experiencing the highest levels of customer satisfaction and new rider growth in history.”

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Photos by Dave Sotero



CEO Roger Snoble, Rio Hondo student Gabriela Baldovinos, Rio Hondo College Board President Angela Acosta-Salazar, President, and Metro Commute Services Director David Sutton

Metro Teams with Rio Hondo College to offer Students Free Transit Passes

By DAVE SOTERO

(Sept. 12, 2006) Metro has joined Rio Hondo College in announcing a new transit pass program called "Go Rio" that entitles full-time students to free transit passes in an effort to help promote public transportation at the Whittier community college.

Three transit agencies are participating in the program: Metro, Foothill Transit and Norwalk Transit. Rio Hondo is the first college to negotiate the transit pass program with three regional transit agencies. As such, it is the most comprehensive pass program of its kind in Southern California.

The program begins with the fall session and school officials report that more than 700 students have already taken advantage of the program.

The program is available free to students who take 12 units or more. It seeks to expand access to the college by lowering transportation costs, improving parking, and reducing traffic on the campus.



Metro Bus Operator Martin Mares, along with bus operators from Foothill Transit and Norwalk Transit, give the "Go Rio" program the thumbs up.

Paying more for transportation

With the increased price of gas, at some colleges students are paying more for transportation than they are for books. At Rio Hondo some students are paying more for transportation than for tuition.

Metro provides its transit passes to the college as part of its Institutional Pass Program headed by David Sutton, director of Metro Commute Services.

It offers special pass programs to large organizations such as colleges, universities and trade schools in efforts to promote transit use. These programs enable institutions to negotiate fare media arrangements for a specific term such as a semester or quarter. Other educational institutions that have participated include UCLA, Los Angeles City College and Pierce College.

"Metro's Institutional Pass Program gives Rio Hondo College students the convenience of an unlimited Metro Bus and Metro Rail pass," said CEO Roger Snoble. "Institutions of higher learning throughout LA County can work with Metro to get this pass program implemented at their schools to help reduce the stress or added expense of driving."

CEO Roger Snoble and Metro Commute Services Director David Sutton present "Go Rio" transit pass to Rio Hondo student Gabriela Baldovinos.




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[Metro News Briefs]

- Survey says: More Riders [Switching to Metro](#)
- [Metro and Valley College Team Up](#) to Prepare Applicants for Bus Operator Job Interviews

Survey Says: More Riders Switching to Metro

By KIM UPTON

(Sept. 13, 2006) Increasing numbers of people who have cars available are taking Metro, according to the newest Metro Customer Satisfaction Survey, which polled 15,752 riders.

The percentage of Metro riders who have transportation alternatives, such as cars, but instead choose to take public transportation continued to rise, from 22 percent in fall, 2002, to 34 percent in the latest survey.

If the trend continues, it could mean that mass transit in Los Angeles is luring riders off freeways and streets and onto public transportation, although further study is needed.

Despite the threat of terrorism, customers also said they are feeling more secure. Eighty-three percent surveyed -- a record high -- said they feel safe at Metro bus stops and rail stations and almost 9 of 10 customers (88 percent) said they feel safe while riding the system.

Since the London bus bombings in July, 2005, Metro has invested \$9 million in security upgrades, including installation of hundreds of security cameras in Metro Rail stations and in subway cars and buses.

With Metro ridership spiking to an all-time high this spring, finding bus and rail seats could have been a challenge, yet 82 percent of riders said they were able to get seats when they rode -- another all-time high since the twice-a-year survey began in 2002.

On-time performance was also applauded by 74 percent of riders. Customers continue to approve of Metro courtesy and comfort. Eighty percent of those queried said they found bus operators to be courteous, a trend that has steadily increased over the past three years.

The vast majority of riders -- 78 percent -- consider buses and trains clean and bus stop and train stations clean (72 percent). And 85 percent said they are satisfied with the service.

During the six months prior to the spring survey, riders said they believe Metro's service schedule met their needs and 91 percent said

bus and rail service are convenient to use.

Half of those polled have been riding for more than five years. Four out of five riders surveyed, about 86% of those polled, said they thought Metro's image was improving.

Metro and Valley College Team Up to Prepare Applicants for Bus Operator Job Interviews

By JOSÉ UBALDO

(Sept. 13, 2006) Los Angeles Valley College will provide free training for individuals interested in preparing for job interviews as bus operators with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). Previous bus driving experience is not required.

To help recruit bus operators to fill its 300 vacant positions, Metro has implemented an innovative new pilot program in collaboration with Los Angeles Valley College, the Wilshire Metro WorkSource Center and the Literacy Network of Greater Los Angeles.

The pre-screening recruitments will be held September 20, 22, 27 and 28 at 1:00 p.m. at the Wilshire Metro WorkSource Center, 3550 Wilshire Boulevard, suite 500, Los Angeles.

The initial requirements include: Valid driver's license for a minimum of two years, at least 21 years of age, satisfactory driving record, ability to speak, read and write English. The benefits included are: \$10.30 per hour during the training and then \$13.36 per hour after a six-week period, medical, dental and vision insurance plans, holiday and sick pay and other benefits.

The program includes instructions in English, basic computer applications, critical thinking, time management, study skills and customer service.



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Largest class ever: 24 graduate as train operators after completing intensive rail training course.



Photo by David Aguirre

Metro Blue Line	Metro Green Line	Metro Red Line
Luis M. Jimenez	Wayne C. Morris	William Campos (RTOS)
Shontae M. Hightower	Leon L. Frasier	Froylan Sandoval
Warren A. Paul	John T. Mayfield	Jose A. Geldres
Darnay E. White	Carla K. Robinson-Rhames	Jose D. Paz
William M. Lee	Balwinder S. Sidhu	Xiomara A. Smith
Alfred Goytia	T.J. Thorn	
Fernando Mata	Gloria E. Ojeda	
Lorenzo C. Avalos	Frank R. Aguilar	
Herbert Guillen	Irma N. Geraci	
	Roberto Flores	

(Sept. 13, 2006) The newly graduating Rail Transit Operations Class picked up their certificates Monday after completing the eight-week intensive training course that qualifies them as train operators. They now join the ranks of some 200 Rail Operators who operate the trains of the 73.1-mile Metro Rail system.

The graduates joined with Rail General Manager Gerald Francis, DEO - Rail Transportation Melvin Clark, UTU General Chairman James Williams, UTU Vice-chairman Vic Baffone, Local 1565 Chairman Tim Delcambre and Vice Local Chairman Jesus Ruis and Operations staff for a cake and certificate ceremony at Metro Headquarters Sept. 11.

Eight seasoned instructors delivered the training. They are Arnold Johnson, Karl Williams, Freddie Marlow, Cristobal Medina, Willard Johnson, Esther Pippins, Hector Gutierrez and Gerald Harper.

With 24 graduates, it was the largest class of train operators to complete the training course.

-- from Linda Leone

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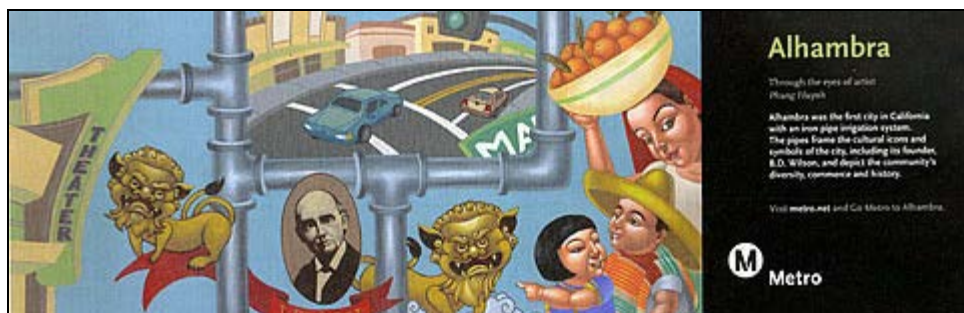
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Commissioned by Metro Art, two new posters appearing on Metro buses and rail cars are "Pomona" by Sonia Romero, above and "Alhambra" by Phung Huynh, below.



Metro Unveils New Neighborhood Posters on Bus And Rail Fleet

By KIM UPTON

On display on Metro buses and rail cars through early December are two new posters celebrating Los Angeles County destinations customers can travel to via Metro. Commissioned by Metro Art, the new posters are "Pomona" by Sonia Romero and "Alhambra" by Phung Huynh.

Inspired by the design of orange crate labels, Romero pulled together a wide variety of cultural icons from the history of the city of Pomona, including the L.A. County Fair, Antique Row, the Art Colony, the Wally Parks Motorsports NHRA Museum and the Roman goddess Pomona.

Huynh took her inspiration from the city of Alhambra -- the first city in California with an iron pipe irrigation system. In her design, pipes frame the cultural icons and symbols of the city, including founder B.D. Wilson, and depict the community's diversity, commerce and history.

Romero is a graduate of Los Angeles County High School for the Arts and received a B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her works have been exhibited locally in group shows and she will have her first solo exhibition this month at the Avenue 50 Studio in Highland Park.

Huynh received a B.F.A. from Arts Center College of Design in Pasadena and an M.F.A. from New York University. Currently teaching at East Los Angeles College, Huynh has exhibited her works locally and nationally and is also the artist for the Metro Orange Line Laurel Canyon station.

In the tradition of celebrating transportation through colorful travel destination posters, Metro commissions a diverse range of Los Angeles artists to create original artworks for the Metro Neighborhoods poster series.

The intent of the series is to convey the distinctive character and vitality of neighborhoods and destinations served by the Metro network. The posters are displayed throughout the Metro system, including in trains, buses, stations and at various other locations.

Initiated in 2003, the Neighborhoods poster series has commissioned 16 original artworks and garnered a Print Magazine Regional Design Annual Design Excellence Award, a Tranny Merit Award, a "Fresh" Illustrator Award from Illustration Magazine Annual and a Los Angeles Society Illustrators Award Silver Medal.

Artists are selected by responding to a Call to Artists issued by Metro Art and review of past artwork by a selection panel that includes arts professional and Metro representatives.

Established in 1989, Metro Art has commissioned more than 250 artists for a wide variety of both temporary and permanent artworks throughout the Metro system.

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Funeral services for Armando Ponce, Equipment Records Specialist at Central City Division 1, are scheduled for Friday.

- Services will be held Friday Sept. 22, 2006, at 10 a.m. at Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, 332 North Avenue 61, in Los Angeles California (90042)

(Sept. 19, 2006) Service are scheduled for Armando Ponce, Equipment Records Specialist at Central City Division 1, who passed away Thursday, Sept. 14, at the age of 45. He was a Metro employee for over 21 years.



Armando Ponce

Ponce had spent the last few months at home with his family.

Ponce was selected as Division 1 Maintenance Employee of the Month for April 2006. Often, his daughter Jessica would find him dusting off his "Employee of the Month" plaque while telling her he had to go back to work. Recently, daughter Jessica told one of Ponce's co-workers, a Division 1 mechanic, that he was very proud of his "Employee of the Month" award.

Ponce is survived by his wife Lisa, daughter Jessica, and son, Justin.

"Armando will be missed," said Hector Rojas, Central City Division Maintenance Manager.



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A crowd of more than 300 packed the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City, Sept. 12, for the Mobility 21 Coalition Westside meeting.



Photos by Ned Racine

More Than 300 Attend Mobility 21 Coalition Westside Meeting

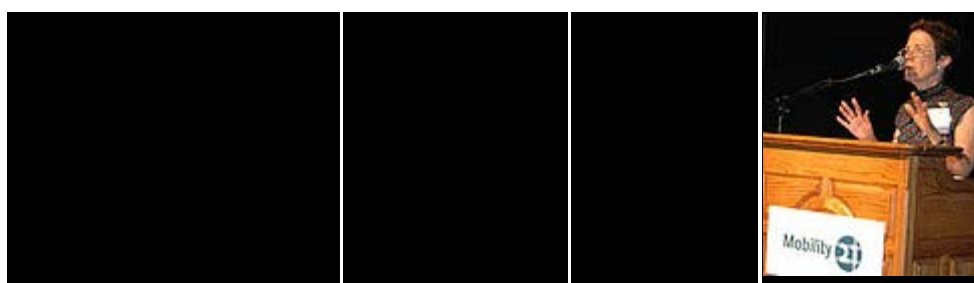
(Sept. 19, 2006) A crowd of more than 300 packed the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City, Sept. 12, for the Mobility 21 Coalition Westside meeting. "This is one of the biggest Coalition meetings we have ever had," said Metro CEO Roger Snoble. "It speaks to the growing interest on the Westside and throughout the county to address our transportation challenges."




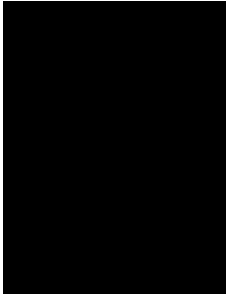
Speakers discussed the Metro Exposition Light Rail Project from downtown Los Angeles to Culver City; the Highway, Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond Act of 2006, and other transportation issues important to Southern California.

Speakers included State Senator Kevin Murray; Assemblyman Paul Koretz; Metro Board Member and Santa Monica City Council Member Pam O'Connor; Billie Greer, Director of the Los Angeles Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Metro CEO Roger Snoble.



Metro CEO Roger Snoble leads discussion of challenges to transportation efforts.



			
Metro Board Member and Santa Monica City Council Member Pam O'Connor	Assemblyman Paul Koretz	State Senator Kevin Murray	Billie Greer, Director of the Los Angeles Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Fifteen organizations representing the business community, community groups and others served as “partners” for this event and helped generate turn-out.

	
	Remarks from Expo CEO Rick Thorpe, above, and the Expo booth in the lobby of the Kirk Douglas Theatre, at left, drew great interest from residents and businesses of Culver City.

This was the latest in a series of Mobility 21 Coalition meetings scheduled throughout the region and the last one before the annual Summit scheduled for October 30 at the Sheraton Hotel in Universal City.

—from Jody Litvak



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Red Cross Blood Drive Scheduled Tuesday, Sept. 26, at Gateway

- Appointments available 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Sept. 19, 2005) Metro—with help from the American Red Cross—will hold an all-day blood drive Sept. 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Four Red Cross nurses will help Metro employees donate blood in the Union Station Room, 3rd floor.

Corporate Safety Systems Manager Eddy Boghossian, who helped organize the event, expects the turnout to be good.

Donors are asked to drink plenty of water and eat at least one hour before donating blood. People who have been tattooed within the past 12 months, those who weigh less than 110 lbs. and those who have low iron counts should check with the nurses about their eligibility to donate.

Appointments are necessary. Contact Becky Quinteros @ 213-922-6865 or quinterosb@metro.net.



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Some 75 traffic reporters packed the Saddle Ranch Chop House in Universal City Walk on Wednesday for the Golden Pylon Awards, transportation's equivalent of Hollywood's "Oscar."



Photos by Gayle Anderson

'Golden Pylon Awards' Honor Top Southland Traffic Reporters

- Ceremony is a prelude to Rideshare Week, Oct. 2– 6
- [More Photos:](#) Making the Scene at Saddle Ranch Chop House

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Sept. 21, 2006) Southland transit agencies presented coveted Golden Pylon Awards to five TV and radio traffic reporters, Wednesday. Their careful reporting helps keep Southland traffic moving by promoting rideshare options like carpool lanes, said Alan Holmes, Ventura County Transportation Commission rideshare coordinator who served as master of ceremonies.

The awards were presented during a luncheon in Universal City by Metro, Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino Associated Governments and Ventura County Transportation Commission.



Richard Quintero, California Highway Patrol Officer, above, and Metro Traffic reporter Richard Santiago Jr. were two of the of the award. Five Golden Pylon winners were voted tops by their broadcasting peers.



Honored for their fast, accurate road condition reports and strategically placed promotion of rideshare options that help thousands of commuters avoid traffic snarls each day, are:

- Richard Quintero, California Highway Patrol Officer who reports for television stations Fox 11 and KMEX-34, and radio stations KWRN 1370AM, KFRN 1280AM and KWRN 1550AM.
- Rebecca Knowles, aka Toni Jordan, who reports for AirWatch/America, Clear Channel, KGGI FM, KMPC FM, KDL FM, KMYT FM, KTMQ FM, and KSGN FM.
- Mike Nolan, Pilot/reporter with Air Watch/America, Clear Channel, KFI/KOST
- Richard Santiago Jr., Metro Traffic, reporter who translates traffic reports into Spanish for several reporters.
- Lucie Hill, Metro Traffic, who reports for radio stations KTIE, KXCM, KQCM and KWVE

The "Golden Pylon" awards luncheon kicks off the Annual Rideshare

Week Oct. 2 – 6. Rideshare Week is a statewide campaign to reduce solo driving on the state’s congested streets and freeways.

Making the scene...



Event emcee Alan Holmes, a rideshare coordinator for Ventura County Transportation Commission, served up the awards in western-themed style.



Think: AirWatch America meets Clear Channel.



CHiPs - ready to roll when the traffic gets tough.



Meanwhile, back at the Metro Rideshare corral: Riverside County Transportation Commission's Robert Yates, second from left, joins up with Metro team, from left, Sr. Account Exec Liz Armijo, Metro Commute Services Director David Sutton, Sr. Account Exec Valerie Rader and Accounts Supervisor Sarah Zadok.


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"Agencies helping Agencies"

LA Gateway Chapter Theme FY06-07

NCMA's LA Gateway Chapter to Host Panel of Experts from Major Public Agencies

- **Up for discussion:** How agencies can help agencies meet the procurement challenges of FY07

(September 21, 2006) A confab of top procurement and contracting executives from the region's major public agencies will lead a panel discussion at the Sept. 27 meeting of the Los Angeles Gateway Chapter of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA).

The NCMA chapter will kick-off its 2006-2007 Program on Wednesday, with a panel discussion of "Procurement Challenges in FY07." The topic includes legal issues, aging staff, acquisition training and future commerce.

The panel will also highlight and exchange relevant information in support of achieving professional excellence in the procurement and decision-making process.

Participants will include:

- City of Los Angeles – Ken Desowitz, C.P.M., Director, General Services Department, Supply Services Division
- County of Los Angeles – Joe Sandoval, Manager of Purchasing , Internal Services Department (invited)
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority – Lonnie Mitchell, Executive Officer, Procurement & Material Management
- Los Angeles Unified School District – Duane Johnson, Chief Procurement Officer, Procurement Services Group
- Metropolitan Water District – Mike Kolodisner, CPPO, Contracting Services Manager

Light refreshments will be provided outside the Board Room at 3:45 p.m. during registration and networking. The discussions will be held in the Board Room and are scheduled to begin promptly at 4:15 pm and conclude by 5:45.

The meeting is open to all Metro employees.

For information and to RSVP, contact Margaret Merhoff at (213) 922-

1073.

The Gateway Chapter focuses on maintaining high ethical standards and professional integrity in public contracting. Organizations represented in the chapter include the Metropolitan Water District, Southern California Regional Rail Authority and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

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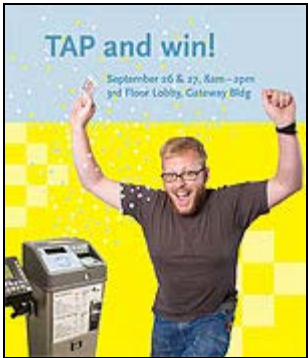
Employees to Test Drive Universal Fare TAP system

- [Test your TAP skills!](#)

CEO Roger Snoble:
"Every time I ride the system, I 'TAP.' I want you to do the same."



- **"Come on down," says Project Manager Jane Matsumoto, "and you may win tickets to Disneyland, movie tickets and other prizes!"**



'Tap and Win!' Prizes

Metro employees are invited to test their Metro ID badge on Tuesday, Sept. 26 and Wednesday, Sept. 27, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the third floor lobby of Metro Headquarters and all day, both days, on any Metro Bus farebox or Metro Rail or Orange Line standalone validator.



(September 22, 2006) The two-day "TAP and Win" event on Tuesday Sept 26, and Wednesday, Sept. 27, is an excellent opportunity for Metro employees to become familiar with the TAP method of fare media.

Metro's Universal Fare System project has moved into high gear with new TAP ticket vending machines, validators and fareboxes installed throughout the system.

As the system makes its way

▼ Click on image to test your TAP skills! ▼

online, CEO Roger Snoble is directing Metro employees who ride our service to “tap” ID badges on the ticket vending machines, TAP fareboxes and validators whenever they ride buses or trains.

“I cannot stress enough the importance of Metro staff “tapping” their ID badges,” he said. “I am requiring all Metro employees to tap their ID badges as we complete installation of our new Universal Fare System.

“Every time I ride the system, I ‘TAP.’ I want all our employees to do the same,” he said.

Gateway Cities General Manager Alex Clifford, who is overseeing the TAP project, wants Metro employees to be the first to test this system. “Please ‘TAP’ your badges – coming and going from work, on a break or at lunch, every time you see a bus farebox or a rail or Orange Line standalone validator, please help us test this system,” he said.

Jane Matsumoto, UFS/TAP project manager, says the employee test run will reveal common mistakes that trump the use of the card. One common mistake is not holding the badge to the TAP target long enough for the system to acknowledge the transaction. Another common mistake is tapping the digital display on the stand alone validator instead of the round TAP target.

“The UFS equipment will track travel patterns, recording the time, location and which bus or rail line an employee boarded,” said Matsumoto. It will show how many employees are riding and where they boarded. The test period also will allow managers and Revenue Collection personnel to evaluate and adjust the system before public use begins.



"Tap and Win!"
Rules & Regulations

- Only Metro employees with a Metro Employee ID are eligible.
- Employees must tap their Metro ID on the fare box or stand alone validator and receive a valid response to be entered in the contest.
- Employees with Metro ID cards that do not work should go to Human Resources at the Gateway Plaza building to activate the TAP function on their ID card.
- Employees working outside the USG building who discover their cards do not work, should call 1.866.TAPTOGO to communicate the problem and HR will make arrangements to exchange their card for a working card.
- Winners will be selected by a drawing and notified by October 13, 2006.



Central City Division Transportation Manager Sonja Owens tests TAP on Metro Bus farebox as Operator Jorge Lozano prepares to begin his afternoon run.

Once in full operation, UFS will deduct the correct amount of money from a customer's prepaid TAP card, whether it is used on a bus or on Metro Rail. It will also recognize Metro passes, whether senior, disabled, regular adult or student.

Currently, UCLA has launched a smart card pilot with Metro on their I-TAP passes. UCLA employees, faculty and students will be "tapping" their Fall Quarter passes on all Metro bus and rail service as part of the UFS smart card pilot testing now in progress. More information will be forthcoming from our Employer Pass unit as UCLA "I-Taps" are seen on Metro Bus and Rail system.

The detailed customer information provided by UFS – garnered from the Metro system and from municipal operators – will help Metro provide service tailored to the needs of its customers throughout the region.

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



For starters: TAP the farebox on your way through the Gateway lobby on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Matsumoto reminds us: "From this point on, your "flash pass" Metro ID badge should be tapped as you travel on the Metro Bus and Metro Rail."

"I really want to hear from all of our employees about their experience tapping their Metro IDs at fare boxes and validators. Please call our special TAP information line at 1.866.TAPTOGO (827-8646)," she said.

--from staff reports
Photos by Gayle Anderson

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Dream Team

- Operator Mark Holland is six-time champion; mechanics team from Arthur Winston Division takes top trophy for third time. Veteran champions will represent Metro at APTA Internationals.

Photos by Gayle Anderson



Dream Team: From left, Frank Forde, Mark Holland, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren, Jr.

SGV Division Operator Mark Holland and Arthur Winston Division Mechanics Warren, Vargas, Forde Nail Metro Bus Rodeo

- Stats: [The Results are in!](#)

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Sept. 26, 2006) Operator Mark Holland and mechanics Andrew Warren Jr., Rommel Vargas and Frank Forde won the 2006 Metro Bus Rodeo, Sept. 23. They'll carry the agency's flag at the 2007 APTA Internationals set for next May in Nashville, Tenn.

This year's event was hosted by the San Gabriel Valley Service Sector and included a competition among the transportation managers from participating divisions. The managers' heart-stopping maneuvers on the obstacle course clearly illustrated the finer points of what it takes to operate a Metro bus and keep it on the road at the same time.



Transportation managers took a spin around the obstacle course, leaving Metro buses intact and a few cones and a couple of barrels none the worse for wear. From left, Mike Greenwood (Div. 9), Diane Frazier (Div. 2), Sonja Owens (Div. 1), Alva Carrasco (Div 6), Maria Reynolds (Div. 8), Cindy Karpman (Div. 18), and Dan Frawley (Div 3).

Six-time champion

In Saturday's competition, San Gabriel Valley Division 9 operator and unprecedented six-time champion Mark Holland emerged victorious with a solid top score of 650 points. The champion edged out Crossroad Depot Division 2 Operator Luis Martinez, in second place with 630 points, and North Los Angeles Division 3 operator Juan Navarro, in third place with 615 points.

As Metro's champion, Holland first represented the agency at the APTA International finals in 1988 in Montreal. Then, there was San Antonio in 1995, Orlando in 1999 and Philadelphia in 2001.



San Gabriel valley Division Operator Mark Holland cruises the car show after racking up 650 points to score his 6th championship.

During the 2003 event in Salt Lake City, Holland found himself competing against operators from across the U.S. and Canada while maneuvering over an unfamiliar and difficult obstacle course. He went over the time limit, but managed to capture third place. "I was fortunate to get it," he recalls.

Run-away score

Rodeo 2006 was the third Metro championship for the Arthur Winston Division team of Warren, Vargas and Forde, who posted a run-away score of 1,205 in the maintenance event. They bested by 385 points the Carson Division 18 team of Raymond Phung, Mina Ros and Luke Logan.



South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey, Deputy CEO John Catoe, mechanics' events organizer Steve Mullaly and event host San Gabriel Valley General Manager Jack Gabig share bragging rights with South Bay mechanics team, who scored 825 to take second place.

Maintenance Division 18's score of 825, however, was only 10 points up on the 815 turned in by the third-place Division 1 team of Javier Sora, David Klinkenborg and Jose Moya.

The Division 5 champs represented Metro at the 2003 international competition in Utah and again at the 2005 finals in Dallas.

Some 400 employees, their families and guests came out to Santa Anita Park for the annual event. The operator's competition involved 40 participants and was organized by TOS Frank Cecere of Metro San Gabriel Valley. The mechanics' events featured 11 teams and was organized by Sr. Equipment Maintenance Instructor Steve Mullaly. Maintenance Instructor Carlos Rojas organized the perennial favorites, the Car Show and Motorcycle exhibit. (Stay tuned: Details to follow.)

In the periphery of the main events were plenty of activities to keep everyone thrilled, happy and inspired: a spectacular car show and motorcycle exhibit, a fun zone for kids, a visit from the Sheriff's helicopter and an abundance of barbecue enjoyed in the shade of a tented picnic area.



The landing of the Sheriff's helicopter draws a crowd from across the vast parking lot at Santa Anita Racetrack.

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- LA to Receive [\\$6.2 Million Security Grant](#)
- Construction Progressing at [Orange Line Canoga Station](#)

Expo Authority to Break Ground for New Rail Line

(Sept. 26, 2006) The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority has scheduled a groundbreaking, Friday, to officially mark the beginning of construction of the 8.5-mile light rail line.

Expo Construction Authority CEO Rick Thorpe and Authority Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke will host elected officials at the event. They are expected to include Metro Board Chair Gloria Molina, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Culver City Mayor Gary Silbiger.

When completed in 2010, the \$640 million project will include eight stations along the Exposition right-of-way between downtown LA and Washington/National in Culver City.

Metro, Heart Association to Promote Stroke Awareness in October

(Sept. 26, 2006) Metro Corporate Safety and the American Heart Association (AHA) are partnering to promote Stroke Awareness for employees during the month of October.

Metro received a grant from AHA to educate employees in the signs and symptoms of stroke and its prevention.

During Stroke Awareness Month, AHA and members of the Corporate Safety staff will visit bus and rail divisions to teach front-line employees how to recognize the symptoms of stroke.

Employees will be shown a three-minute DVD on risk factors and signs associated with stroke. Tables with informational material and brochures will also be set up for employees.

AHA representatives will be on hand before and after the presentations to field any health-related questions that employees may have on the subject of stroke prevention.

U.S. House Overturns Ban on LA Subway Tunneling

(Sept. 26, 2006) The U.S. House of Representatives voted unanimously, Sept. 20, to adopt legislation authored by Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) that would overturn the current ban on tunneling for rail in certain "methane zones" in Los Angeles.

The ban was originally instituted by Waxman in 1986 following the Ross Dress for Less fire in the Wilshire-Fairfax District. The bill must now be approved by the Senate and signed into law by President Bush before the close of the 109th Congress later this year.

Last November, a five-member panel of independent tunneling experts, appointed by Waxman and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, reported that tunneling along Wilshire Boulevard and the operation of subway trains west of Western Avenue could be done safely using new tunneling techniques.

Rail Ops Improves Gold Line Express Service Run Times

(Sept. 26, 2006) Metro Rail Operations has recently completed work to shorten trip times on the Gold Line by five minutes between Union Station and Sierra Madre Villa.

The change was accomplished by installing a modified train control system and designating certain stations as express stops.

Northbound, the express stops are at Highland Park, Mission, Fillmore, Del Mar and Memorial Park. Southbound, the express stations are at Lake, Del Mar, Mission and Highland Park.

The modifications have resulted in a decrease in express service run time from 29 minutes to 24 minutes and in local service run time from 34 minutes to 29 minutes.

Over the next few months, the Rail Operations staff will develop a new schedule that will incorporate run time improvements and add up to two trips per hour during peak periods.

LA to Receive \$6.2 Million in Homeland Security Grants

(Sept. 26, 2006) The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced that Metro and other regional transit agencies will receive a Transit Security Grant (TSG) in the amount of \$6.2 million.

The grant will provide \$4 million for rail security, an amount that will be shared between Metro and Metrolink. The grant also provides \$2.2 million for bus security for Metro and other regional transit agencies.

The twin ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles will receive \$12 million in Port Security Grants. These grants are designed to enhance awareness in the ports, provide protection from improvised explosive devices and bolster defenses against non-conventional methods of attack.

The TSG program will provide a total of \$135 million, nationwide, in security grants this fiscal year for rail, bus and ferry systems.

Construction Progressing at Orange Line's New Canoga Station

(Sept. 26, 2006) Construction of the Metro Orange Line's new Canoga

station and 600-space Park and Ride lot is well underway.

The project includes a 1/3rd-mile extension of the busway and the existing bike and pedestrian path from Variel Avenue to Canoga Avenue.

The contractor, Sully-Miller Construction Company, is working on placing concrete for the two station platforms and installing station electrical and communications equipment.

In October, the parking lot will be paved and landscaping will begin. The Canoga station project is thus far on budget and is scheduled to be completed in December 2006.


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18 Named Employees of Quarter for 4th Quarter FY 2006

- [How to Nominate](#) an Employee of the Quarter
- [Read more](#) about the Employees of the Quarter

(Sept. 27, 2006) Eighteen employees, whose work exemplifies the seven core Metro values, have been selected as Employees of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of FY 2006.

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

• Safety

The team of **Bill Hesser, Rosa Garcia-Gonzalez, Raquel Pena, Nelson Mak, Alice Tran, Edwin Guevara, Marilou Guarino, Jane Mohsin and Edina Pagadora** contributed greatly to reducing lost workdays related to work injury in the Accounting Department. The team meets regularly to discuss and perform duties related to safety issues in Accounting.

• Employees

Electronic Communication Technician **Jiceri White** is responsible for maintaining radios in the 180 Freeway Service Patrol trucks and for improving dispatch assignments and vehicle utilization by upgrading the Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL). He also takes the lead in all radio installations and has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the mobile radio maintenance program.

• Fiscal Responsibility

Kathy Drayton, administrative and financial services manager for the San Fernando Valley Sector, develops the Operations department budget and manages the financial and day-to-day aspects of the sector office. She was successful in guiding the budgetary process to conclusion, completing all her regular duties to satisfy the needs of OMB, the sector general manager, and the Service Sector Council.

• Integrity

Division 2 Assistant Maintenance Manager **Gary Schachel**, a 24-year employee, takes pride in ensuring that the maintenance facility is safe by making daily facility inspections, working with facility maintenance in making repairs and modifications, and by making sure management knows which capital projects need to be accomplished.

• Innovation

Transportation Planning Manager **Paula Carvajal** managed the agency’s overall Bike To Work Day efforts, working tirelessly to make sure all program components were completed and undertaken with excellence. With strong support from different departments, she generated new business and commuter participation and helped raise awareness of bike commuting. Her efforts helped increase this year’s percentage of participants.

- **Customer Satisfaction**

Mary Lou Algallar and **Raul Gomez** of the Copy Center keep the customer in mind at all times. Mary Lou has made herself available when last minute urgent jobs come in. Raul was able to scan all the Operations shakeup material ahead of schedule and, as a result, the Copy Center completed the job a week prior to the deadline. The work ethic of these two individuals sets a standard that their Copy Center co-workers admire and attempt to emulate.

- **Teamwork**

Arthur Winston Division 5 Storekeeper **Sidney Mitchell** and Stock Clerks **Kenny Howard, Corey Hearn** and **Darryl Mickens** take pride in making their storeroom one of the cleanest and most efficient at Metro. The team manages over 3,000 storeroom items and issues over 2,000 items each month with a service rate of 98.7 percent, helping keep the buses on the street and serving Metro’s customers.

How to Nominate an Employee of the Quarter
<p>The Employee of the Quarter program is administered by the Communication Services Department, which is now accepting nominations for the second quarter of FY 2006. The deadline is Jan. 31.</p> <p>The nomination form is located on the Employee Recognition web page at http://intranet1/employee_recognition/eoq.htm. Once the form is completed by the person making the nomination, it must be approved by the department head and the executive officer, then forwarded to Jennifer Salamanca at Mail Stop 99-19-3.</p> <p>Final selection of the Employee of the Quarter winners will be made by the Employee of the Quarter selection committee, whose members are appointed by business unit executive officers for a period of one fiscal year. Questions about the program should be directed to Salamanca at 922-2263. >top</p>



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[Back to article](#)> Dream Team: Veteran champions will represent Metro at APTA Internationals

Metro Bus Rodeo 2006

The Results are in:

[Obstacle Course Competition](#) | [Maintenance Team Competition](#) | [Car & Motorcycle Show](#)

Obstacle Course Competition

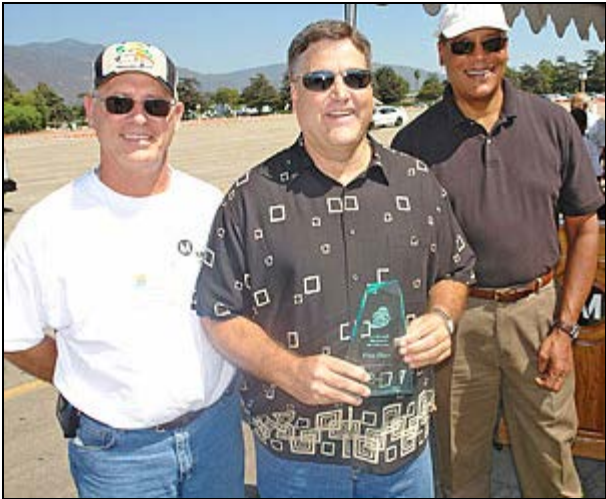
Rank	Operator	Div	Score
1	Mark Holland	9	650
2	Luis Martinez	2	630
3	Juan Navarro	3	615
4	Samuel Morales	1	605
5	Juan Gonzalez	10	587
6	Juan Serrano	8	531
7	Marcos Portillo-Meija	1	526
8	Luduvico Castro	9	524
9	Fabrisio Contreras	15	522
10	Eddie Valles	15	512
11	Julio Flores	8	510
12	Manuel Hernandez	7	502
13	Jose Sanchez	2	502
14	Joe Acosta	3	493
15	Juan Medrano	9	492
16	Felipe Patlan	1	491
17	Herman Garcia	3	489
18	Nelson Zapata	10	488
19	Luis Perez	1	477
20	Mimi Pereira	15	471
21	Jesus Valdez	10	469
22	Eric Maldonado	1	467
23	Mario Madrid	3	466
24	Leoncio Sia	9	466
25	Nipon Pasaphanthu	3	465
26	Jeffrey Ralph	5	462
27	Jeffrey Wilbanks	2	462
28	Alfonso Quezada	3	456



Top ops: from left, Mark Holland, first place, Luis Martinez, second place and Juan Navarro, a cool third.

Hey! They tried:

The First Ever Transportation Managers Obstacle Half-Course Competition

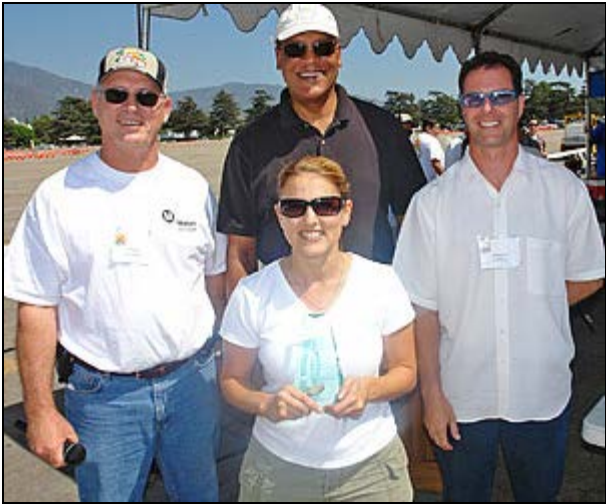


North Los Angeles Division Manager Dan Frawley's smooth ride took the first place trophy and a pat on the back from SGV GM Jack Gabig and Deputy CEO John Catoe.

29	Jose Calles	10	455
30	Richard Lopez	9	444
31	Joaquin Barron-Hernandez	1	435
32	Ramiro Mota	2	432
33	Roberto Ramirez	1	420
34	Arthur Alva	3	410
35	Aldo Aleman	15	409
36	Guadalupe Jordan	3	402
37	Francisco Marquez	18	397
38	Lucio del Cid	9	388
39	Roger Machuca-Campos	9	320
40	Jose Mismith	1	298



Maria Reynolds, West Valley transportation manager, came in a close second for a trophy and big smiles from host SGV Gm Jack Gabig, SFV GM Richard Hunt and Deputy CEO John Catoe.



Look out! Venice Division transportation manager Alva Carrasco was a strong third, wowing Gabig, Catoe and Westside/Central GM Mark Maloney.

Maintenance Team Competition

1st Place (1205 pts) Arthur Winston Division 5

- Andrew Warren, Jr.
- Rommel Vargas
- Frank Forde

2nd Place (825 pts) South Bay Division 18

- Luke Logan
- Mina Ros
- Raymond Phung

3rd Place (815 pts) Gateway Division 10



- Javier Soria
 - David Klinkenborg
 - Jose Moya
- 4th Place (610 pts) East Valley Division 15
- Kirt Langmayer
 - Brad Pardo
 - Ray Hilton
- 5th Place (505 pts) Central City Division 1
- Fred Hines
 - Gustavo Sanchez
 - Sergio Barron
- 6th Place (455 pts) North Los Angeles Division 3
- Tim Wong
 - Arnold Del Toro
 - Cristobal Hurtado
- 7th Place (445 pts) San Gabriel Valley Division 9
- Omar Nomuro
 - Armando Martinez
 - Javier Castro
- 8th Place (420 pts) West Valley Division 8
- Yoon Oak
 - David Sweany
 - David Ball
- 9th Place (405 pts) Repair & Refurbish Division 30
- Thinh (Tim) Hong
 - Fernando Aguilar
 - Jaime Nava
- 10th Place (375 pts) Crossroads Depot Division 2
- Andrew Filimaui
 - Alfredo Cardenas
 - Kevin Cameron
- 11th Place (310 pts) West Hollywood Division 7
- Baldemar Gonzalez

1st Place Arthur Winston Division 5 team Andrew Warren Jr., Rommel Vargas and Frank Forde.



2nd Place South Bay Division 18 team: Luke Logan, Raymond Phung and Mina Ros.



3rd Place Gateway Division 10 team Javier Soria, Jose Moya and David Klinkenberg with SGV GM and host Jack Gabig, at right, and Deputy CEO John Catoe, back row, with organizer Steve Mullaly.



It's never easy -

Division 2 mechanics take on the Bus Inspection event, above, while Division 10 team beats the clock at the brake board competition.

- Craig Daniel
- Glenn Buakong

Car & Motorcycle Show

Motorcycles

(Winners awarded 2006
Rodeo Belt Buckle)

- People's Choice
Trophy– Romeo
Cardoza #7
- Best Custom Award –
Al Mah #32
- Best Stock Award –
George Rodriguez #9
- Best Touring Award –
Vincent Owens #33

Car

- People's Choice
Trophy– Virginia
Hurtado #15 2006
300C
- Best Truck Trophy–
Donald Wells #18
1959 Chevy Truck
- Best Custom Trophy–
Juan Navarro #12
1962 Impala
- Best Paint Award –
Rudy Cardenas #21
1939 Chevy (2006
Rodeo T-shirt)
- Best Muscle Car Look
Award – Frank
Saldana #7 1969
Camaro (2006 Rodeo
T-shirt)
- Best Stock Award –
Chris Doan # 10 1958
Chevy (2006 Rodeo
Belt Buckle)



People's Choice Trophy goes to Romeo Cardoza, here congratulated by show organizer Carlos Rojas. (Photo by Sarah Winfrey)



Division 10 Mechanic Frank Saldana from Division 10 came to the Rodeo Car Show with his brother, James, with a metal masterpiece - a classic '69 Camaro. The brothers transformed the rusted-out shell – hardly a shadow of its former glory – into a thing of beauty with four on the floor, a new engine and meticulous detail. No small feat considering the fact that the Camaro didn't have an engine to start with and there wasn't much of a floor, if at all. Today, the Camaro turns heads when the brothers take it out for a very spectacular spin. - from Sarah Winfrey.

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Workmen place a temporary steel plate in the busway of Patsaouras Plaza during surface repair project in 2004.



Patsaouras Plaza to Close 10 Days for Repairs to Surface

(Sept. 28, 2006) Patsaouras Plaza will be closed to bus and vehicle traffic for 10 days between Oct. 2 and Oct. 16 for repairs to the surface and installation of new paving bricks near the top of the bus ramp.

The project will begin at 9 a.m., Monday, Oct. 2, but for the remainder of the project, work will be conducted during weekdays from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. The Plaza will reopen to normal bus service and vehicle traffic on Monday, Oct. 16.

Traffic control barriers will be set up around the construction area. Fliers explaining the closure and directing patrons to alternate bus boarding locations along Vignes Street will be posted throughout the Plaza.

Three buses – Flyaway, Dash Route D and the Metrolink shuttle – will continue to use the Plaza, boarding and discharging passengers on the east side of the busway near the ramp to Vignes Street. All other Metro and municipal buses will board and discharge passengers either on Vignes or on Cesar Chavez Avenue.

Members of the Bus Operations Control staff and Metro Security officers will be on hand to assist operators and customers throughout the first two days of construction.

A second phase of the Plaza refurbishment project, to include spot repairs and the replacement of paving bricks in other areas of Patsaouras Plaza, has not yet been scheduled.

An extensive project to repair damage to the surface of Patsaouras Plaza was conducted over several months beginning in July 2004.

Cracked and displaced brick pavers and granite blocks were removed near the top of the bus ramp and at the south end of the Plaza. New pavers and stones were seated on a layer of bedding sand poured over a waterproof membrane.

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Board of Directors Extends CEO Snoble's Contract for Two Years

- Presided over a period of agency change and expansion
- Credits employees for Board's confidence in him

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Sept. 28, 2006) The Board today signed a contract with CEO Roger Snoble that will extend his term of office by two years to October 2008.



CEO Roger Snoble

In making the announcement, Board Chair Gloria Molina congratulated Snoble, saying, "He'll be with us for another two years to continue the good work and all that he has been doing. We're very proud to be a part of that contract (which) was all signed and sealed this morning."

Snoble, who was hired as Metro's chief executive officer in 2001, will begin his sixth year with the agency on Oct. 1. He succeeded Julian Burke, who served as CEO for four years beginning in August 1997.

Looking forward to the next two years, Snoble told myMetro.net, "We have a lot on our plate. The construction of the Eastside Extension is going very well and will be a big improvement in our transit system. We're continuing to work on expanding the Rapid Bus system to 28 routes – a very ambitious program."

"We're also working to continually improve the quality of the bus service," he added. "Then, there's all of our highway initiatives. So, there's plenty on our plate."

Gives employees the credit

The CEO credited Metro employees with the confidence the Board has placed in his leadership.

"Nothing happens without our employees, without their hands and minds and hearts going into everything we do," he said. "It simply wouldn't happen without our nearly 10,000 employees. They deserve all the credit because they're the ones who are doing all the extraordinary work."

Snoble, 61, has presided over the agency during a period of change and expansion. Transit Operations, for example, was reorganized into five service sectors, each with a general manager and a Sector Governance Council.

The Metro Connections program, which will represent a major realignment of Metro's bus service and a greater involvement with

municipal transit agencies, is nearing implementation. The Universal Fare System's TAP program also has begun a phased implementation.

Under his leadership, the Metro Rapid program has grown exponentially; articulated buses and other high-capacity coaches have been added to the fleet; and two express bus lines have been initiated. These and other service improvements have resulted in a marked increase in ridership.

Rail line construction

During Snoble's tenure, Metro opened the Metro Gold Line and the Metro Orange Line and began construction on the Eastside Extension. On Friday, the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority will break ground on an 8.5-mile light rail line from downtown LA to Culver City.

New, high-tech trains have been purchased and will soon be joining the Metro Rail fleet. The Safety's 1st program also has proven successful, reducing lost-time injuries and lowering Worker's Compensation costs dramatically.

The agency's rideshare programs are paying off both by attracting new transit riders and by encouraging car- and vanpooling. Increased interest in transit also has fostered a number of "transit village" and transit-oriented developments – finished, under construction or in the planning stages – at a number of locations throughout the area.

Perhaps capping off his first five years in office, Metro will receive the Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award at the APTA annual meeting, Oct. 10, in San Jose.

Reflecting on the APTA award In a recent CEO UpDate column, Snoble wrote, "Whether you drive a bus or train, clean or maintain our vehicles' whether you're involved in planning, construction, operations, procurement, communications, customer relations or staff support – it was your individual contribution that helped bring us this great honor."

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Gen. Grant Gets 'Medical Discharge' from Metro Security Force

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Sept. 29, 2006) General Grant – a chocolate Labrador bomb-sniffing dog – retired, Friday, after a year of exemplary service with Metro Security.



Senior Security Officer Henry Solis and General Grant have been a team for the past year.
Photo by Bill Heard.

The friendly canine, who has won the heart of his handler Senior Security Officer Henry Solis and everyone he's come in contact with, is suffering from arthritis and dysplasia, a painful and degenerative disease in the elbows of both front legs.

General Grant gained the admiration of security officers for his uncanny ability to sniff out a variety of explosives during training exercises. He and Solis frequently deployed to conduct security sweeps for VIPs, including Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Homeland Security Chief Michael Chertoff.

Solis is adopting General Grant and will keep him as a pet, although he plans to continue with occasional bomb-dog training.

"He's so used to dealing with explosives," says Solis. "It's in his blood; it's what he lives for."

General Grant can retire with pride in the fact that he helped arrest a burglary suspect.

While on patrol at Union Station with Solis last August, the dog became suspicious of a man carrying a large backpack. Recognizing the man as a suspect in the burglary of a Metro Green Line ticket vending machine, Solis and another officer apprehended the man.

Solis begins training, Oct. 9, with a new dog – Shane, a yellow lab – but General Grant will occupy a big place in his heart.

"He's quite a dog," Solis says proudly. "I love him."

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Transit officials break ground, Friday, to mark official start of construction of the the 8.5-mile Exposition Light Rail Line.



Photo by Juan Ocampo

Groundbreaking Signals Start of Expo Line Construction Project

- 'A vital transportation project,' says Burke
- 'Crucial link to regional transportation system,' says Molina
- Opening in 2010, it will link downtown LA and Culver City

By RICK JAGER

(Sept. 29, 2006) The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority Board, joined by other local elected officials, officially broke ground, Friday, on the 8.5-mile Exposition Light Rail Line.

When completed in 2010, the Expo Line will link downtown to Culver City and will provide an alternative to the heavily congested I-10 Santa Monica freeway.

"Today marks the beginning of construction on this vital transportation project that will bring relief to the thousands of daily commuters that travel between downtown Los Angeles and the Westside," said Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, who also chairs the Expo Construction Authority board. "This is truly an historic day as we embark on building a light rail system that will serve this heavily traveled corridor."

Beginning in downtown Los Angeles, the Expo Line will have a total of 10 stations, sharing two stations (7th Street/Metro Center and Pico/Chick Hearn) with the Metro Blue Line. The line will travel along Flower Street to just south of downtown near USC where it will proceed west on the Metro-owned right-of-way along Exposition Boulevard with an interim terminus near Washington/National in Culver City.

'A major milestone'

"Today's groundbreaking on this crucial link to the regional transportation system marks a major milestone in bringing rail access to the Westside," said Metro Board Chair Gloria Molina. "It's been over 50 years since Pacific Electric's Santa Monica Air Line provided passenger service along this right-of-way and in less than five years we will once again have a rail system in place to ease congestion and speed travel times for Westside residents."

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa acknowledged the efforts of current and former Board members and the involvement of cities along the Expo Line right-of-way and said, "We understand that if we don't begin to rethink what the region looks like; if we don't begin to invest in public transit and move people out of the single-passenger automobile; if we don't figure out how to treat density along transportation corridors like they do in every great city around the world; we're not going to address the quality of life in this city."

Mayor Gary Silbiger of Culver City said the Expo Line project has been a collective effort by all the jurisdictions involved, adding, "It shows that we can find solutions to everything by looking at common goals to serve the public good."

Earlier this year, the Construction Authority's board awarded a design/build contract to the joint venture construction and design group of FCI/Fluor/Parsons to build the \$640 million project. When completed, it will be turned over to Metro to operate. A future second phase of the project would extend the Exposition Line to Santa Monica.

'Time to celebrate'

"Today is a milestone for the construction authority and a time to celebrate as we begin to construct this important transportation project for the region," said Expo Construction Authority CEO Rick Thorpe.

The eight new stations planned for the project will be built at 23rd Street/Flower, Jefferson/Flower, Vermont/Exposition, Western/Exposition, Crenshaw/Exposition, La Brea/Exposition, La Cienega/Exposition and Washington/National.

The stations will include state-of-the-art amenities including ticket vending machines, telephones, security cameras, real-time train arrival signs, bike racks, canopy-covered seating and public art. A bike path will parallel the rail line.

Park and Ride lots will also be constructed along the alignment with approximately 1,500 parking spaces provided among three stations at Crenshaw, La Cienega and Washington/National.

Estimated ridership on the Expo Line is projected at 43,600 daily riders by the year 2020. The hours of operation will coincide with Metro's other rail lines (approximately 4 a.m. to 2 a.m., seven days a week).

Landscaping will be a particularly important element in creating the Exposition Light Rail Line as a transit parkway. When it opens, the line will feature thousands of trees, shrubs and vines.

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CEO Offers 10 Good Driving Habits for 'Drive Safely Work Week'

- Annual highway safety campaign is set for Oct. 2 - 6



(Sept. 29, 2006) CEO Roger Snoble is urging employees to reinforce safe driving behavior during the 10th annual "Drive Safely Work Week," a campaign that begins Monday, Oct. 2.

In a memo being issued to employees today, Snoble notes that the campaign's theme – "Safe Driving is YOUR Responsibility. Make the Commitment." – is relevant to Metro's successful Safety's 1st program.

"This campaign is a reminder to each of us to practice safe driving behaviors every time we get behind the wheel," the CEO writes.

The memo lists 10 steps for responsible driving:

- Plan your route.
- Maintain your vehicle.
- Focus your attention.
- Minimize your distractions.
- Know your surroundings.
- Share your space.
- Watch your speed.
- Keep your distance.
- Signal your intentions.
- Always wear your seatbelt.

Statistics provided by the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS, the campaign sponsors, indicate that a traffic crash occurs every five seconds and that someone dies in a traffic accident in the United States every 12 minutes. One in four work-related deaths is due to traffic-

related trauma, according to NETS.

"They bring needless pain and suffering to family, friends, and co-workers," Snoble writes. "I urge you to make a personal commitment to apply the 10 steps for responsible driving, not only during the campaign week, but each and every day to ensure your safety and the safety of others sharing the road."

NETS is a partnership of corporate and governmental organizations that strives to raise awareness about safe driving practices and address roadway safety issues.

Among its members are the Anheuser-Bush and Coors brewing companies, General Motors, Liberty Mutual Insurance, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and UPS.

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Metro's Jim Pilon is a Moving Force in Off-Road Motorcycling

- He's credited with creating 'dual sport' riding

By SARAH WINFREY

(Sept. 29, 2006) Jim Pilon has two jobs. During the day, he works at West Hollywood Division 7 as a transportation operations supervisor.



TOS Jim Pilon

On his free time he is the California representative to the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC). He was recently inducted into the NOHVCC Hall of Fame.

The organization serves motorcycle enthusiasts who enjoy "dual sport" riding, defined as non-competitive on-road/off-road riding in scenic and historic areas. *Dual Sport Magazine* credits Pilon with creating the sport, which often includes organized events, in 1984.

Pilon became interested in dual sports in high school when he got his first motorcycle, a 1953 Triumph Tiger Cub. Later, when American Honda asked him to help promote off-highway vehicles, he helped dual sport riders find places where they could ride.

Pilon went into action by creating self-guided tours that riders could purchase to explore an area. He was told that no one would pay to take a tour, but he proved them wrong.

The self-guided tours Pilon created had their origin in off-road endurance events, which tested the skills of the riders with timed runs. He felt that by adding directions and more recreational opportunities participants could ride at their own skill level and at their own pace.

It's the camaraderie

"I try and put a little history into the tours when I do them," Pilon explains. "Everyone looks out for one another if they need help. The camaraderie is what really brings a lot of people out to the rides."

The goals of NOHVCC include educating the public about off-highway safety and providing information aimed at making off-highway riding a safe and responsible sport.

"We have to be conscious that we don't damage the environment," Pilon states.

Pilon's whole family, including his wife and grandkids, is involved in the sport. His daughter, who recently got into dual sports, had a minor crash while riding the bikes.

Pilon says she walked up to him afterward and said, "Daddy, now I'm never gonna say, 'Aw too bad, you crashed,' because now I know what it's like."

Near his desk, Pilon keeps a picture of an outdoor scene that he often looks at. He calls it a five-minute vacation.

But, his time isn't just spent in wishful thinking. "You have to go out and experience life," he says.