

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Photos by Ned Racine

Eastside Extension: 2 Million Hours Without a Lost-Time Accident

- A 'world-class' achievement, says one safety official of the three-year record

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(July 26, 2007) Two million work hours and counting – that's the almost unprecedented record construction workers on the Metro Gold Line's Eastside Extension have compiled without a single lost-time injury.

It's an achievement one safety official for the contractor – LRT Eastside Constructors – called "world-class." CEO Roger Snoble noted that the accident-free record had reached 1,112 days, adding that "the safety mindset of our construction workers is not to let accidents happen."



With Metro Construction Safety Manager James Brown at his side, CEO Roger Snoble congratulated the construction team for an on-time, on-budget, high-quality project that has set an enviable safety record.

Since work began in July 2004 on the six-mile alignment that stretches from Union Station to Pomona and Atlantic in East LA, the crew has strictly observed safety procedures through complex phases of construction that have involved excavating twin 1.7-mile tunnels, as well as heavy construction at the surface.

"The guys take safety seriously," said Javier Lora, a Metro senior safety specialist assigned to the Eastside project. "It's reinforced from the top and that always makes all the difference. Communications has been the biggest factor" in keeping safety top-of-mind on the job.

During a celebration, Wednesday morning, some 200 workers gathered under tents at the job site for a barbecue lunch, congratulatory speeches by Metro officials and a raffle.

Safety Achievement Award

Snoble presented an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award plaque to the crew "in recognition of 2 million safe hours."

Board Chair Pam O'Connor praised the construction crew for "leading the effort of building a network of transit that will be here for the whole of the 21st century." And, she said, "You've done it safely."

Supervisor Gloria Molina, in whose district the Eastside Extension lies, noted that the project was 12 years in the making. "I'm so impressed with the work you've done in the last three years. It's amazing how we've progressed so quickly."



Supervisor Gloria Molina, who fought to bring the Metro Gold Line to East LA, said the project "is a tribute to the unbelievable work" the construction crew has done over the past three years.



Board Chair Pam O'Connor congratulated the Eastside Extension construction crew, saying they are "building the backbone of the 21st century."

It was obvious from interviews with various construction officials that the safety record compiled on the project since July 2004 is remarkable. All spoke admiringly of how individual construction workers have adopted a "Safety's First" attitude.

"Whether it was a year ago or now," said Dennis Mori, executive officer for construction project management, "they have exactly the same attitude. They want to keep each other safe...and the contractor is part of our safety culture...."

A tip of the hat

Added Chuck Loggan, an official with the construction joint venture, "You have to tip your hat to the fellows on the job site for being diligent and managing safety while getting the job done."

Safety officials pointed to constant communications efforts, including daily "tool box" meetings and ongoing safety hazard evaluations of the job site as major factors in the 2 million hour record. They also noted that workers are encouraged to report any hazard they see on the job.



Metro Senior Safety Specialist Javier Lora, second from left, talks with construction workers Julian Garcia, Michael Bolton and Kurt Edwards.

"No employee is asked to work in a condition they feel is unsafe," said John Isham, safety director for the Washington Group, a joint venture partner, adding that supervisors will shut down the job and correct any safety hazard before workers are allowed to proceed.

Isham said the Eastside project is a model for all his company's construction projects. "It's the example we use to set up a job and run a very complex construction project."

"Safety is a culture here," he added. "Safety isn't just the right thing to say, they absolutely believe it and it shows. Very few jobs of this nature reach 2 million hours without a lost-time accident."

Metro Construction Chief Rick Thorpe cited the contractor's focus on safety and Metro's efforts to support the contractor in providing a safe job site. "The contractor recognized the importance of safety and that Metro believes Safety's First. That's our motto and it's been fantastic!"