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Thursday, May 28

- [The big picture:](#) Board adopts FY10 budget
- [Safety's First!](#) West Hollywood Division tops the charts
- [In the field:](#) Metro Joins Caltrans Academy Students on Transportation Expedition
- [Bragging rights wanted:](#) Did you run the L.A. Marathon?

Thursday, May 21

- [New class of Metro Rail](#) train operators gear up for the opening of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension
- [Club Scene:](#) AAEA Plans Traditional "Juneteenth" celebration at Soledad Canyon resort campgrounds
- UPDATE** [Obituary:](#) Services scheduled for Debra Deener, nine-year Metro employee in Customer Relations / *Employees share their memories*

Tuesday, May 19

- [Traffic Stoppers:](#) Metro Commute Services hosts 11th annual Diamond Awards
- [A spectator sport:](#) One million race fans will line the route of the L.A. Marathon on Memorial Day
- UPDATE:** [Memorial service scheduled](#) for Mary Wilson, 27-year Metro employee.

Thursday, May 14

- [Committee Meetings:](#) Proposed FY10 budget, making way for Metro Orange Line Extension over-crossing, electrification of CNG fueling facilities on May agendas
- [Club Scene:](#) Lunch Walkers get fit, lose weight, help others

Tuesday, May 12

- [FY10: Going Places:](#) Metro to Hold Public Hearing May 20 on Proposed FY10 Budget
- [Work begins on I-405 HOV lane](#) through the Sepulveda Pass
- [Home again:](#) CEO Leahy begins agency-wide tour of divisions on familiar ground

Thursday, May 7

- [Numero Uno!](#) Metro Bus Team Wins Grand Champion Title at 2009 International Bus Rodeo in Seattle
- [Hybrid bus testing](#) now under way at four divisions
- Are you or yours graduating in 2009? [Get on the List:](#) myMetro to celebrate 2009 grads with annual published 'List of Graduates'

Tuesday, May 5

- How-to: [Sustainability Summit](#) to tackle climate change regulations
- Register now! Metro to kick-off [Bike to Work Week](#) May 11
- Fun> 3,500 converge on Disneyland for [Metro Family Day](#)

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It's all here: [metro.net/biketowork](#) > CO<sup>2</sup> calculator, info, pit stop stations, bike map and more!



Transportation Planning Manager Paula Carvajal-Paez, who coordinates Metro's Bike to Work Week program, runs a pit stop station at Universal City in this photo from 2008. Some 40 pit stops, all staffed by participating sponsors and Bike to Work Day partners, offer cyclists refreshments and a range of sponsor giveaways, such as Clif Bars, coupons, sunscreen, Metro Bike Maps, water, and much more. Some even feature a quick-fix tune-up stand operated by a local bike shop mechanic. The list is growing, and this year Paula packed up 55 boxes full of donated cycling schwag for distribution at the pit stops.

## Metro Promotes 'Bike to Work Week' with Celebrity Bike Pit Stop, Prizes, Free Rides on Transit, Downtown Bike Ride, Cycling Club Bike Pool

- [Pledge Online](#)... and, be entered to win fabulous prizes, including an electric bike from Currie Technologies!

By JOSÉ UBALDO

(May 4, 2009) Cartoon character Bart Simpson will help kick off the 15th annual celebration of Bike to Work Week Monday, May 11, when he arrives on a Metro Bus for a bike tune up at Olvera Street in Downtown Los Angeles.

Metro Board member and Los Angeles City Councilmember Jose Huizar will join Metro CEO Art



Leahy in welcoming Bart to kick off the weeklong bicycle festivities.

Metro will be offering a chance to win several prizes such as two-night stay for two at the Red Mountain Resort & Spa in St. George, Utah, a hybrid electric bike from Currie Technologies, and more prizes to those who pledge to bike to work. Pledge [online](#) or by phone (213) 922-2811 or at the pit stop locations.

**Monday: Bart Simpson** will help Metro kick-off Bike to Work Week at Olvera Street press conference at 8:30 a.m.

**Tuesday: Blessing of the Bicycles** at Good Samaritan Hospital. 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. [Info](#)

**Wednesday: Downtown L.A. Ride**, 8 a.m., from Metro Rail Civic Center Station to L.A. City Hall South Lawn. [Map & pedometer](#)

**Thursday: Bike to Work Day!** Free rides for cyclists all day on Metro and other transit operators. Pit stop stations from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. **PLUS!** Metro Cycling Club Bike Bus --Ride to work from Pasadena or hook up along the way. [Route Info:](#) [nc\\_baird@yahoo.com](mailto:nc_baird@yahoo.com)

**Friday: It's Bike to School Day!** Check for participating schools and rules at [bike\\_at\\_school@la-bike.org](mailto:bike_at_school@la-bike.org)

In addition, on Thursday, May 14, Metro will offer free rides to bicyclists on Metro buses and trains throughout Los Angeles County. Moreover, Beach Cities Transit, Commerce Municipal Bus Lines, Culver City Bus, Gardena Municipal Lines, Glendale Beeline, Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), Montebello Bus Lines, Norwalk Transit, Pasadena ARTS Bus, Santa Clarita Transit, and Torrance Transit, also will offer free rides to bicyclists who use transit for part of their commute day. Just board with a bicycle and/or bike helmet.

Cyclists also can bring their bikes on Metro Rail trains and ride free. Since Metro Rail trains may be full during weekday rush hours, Metro reserves the right to ask bicyclists to wait for the next train from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. unless trains are moving in a direction opposite the peak hour flow of commuter traffic on the Metro Blue, Green and Gold Lines.

On the Metro Red and Purple Lines subways trains, bikes are not allowed in either direction during peak hours from Union Station to Wilshire/Vermont only. No other restrictions apply.

Also as part of the activities on Bike to Work Day, Metro is co-hosting more than 40 bike pit stops with

local organizations, inviting bicyclists to stop by for refreshments and free giveaways from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. only. [Click here](#) for exact locations.

Metro also is supporting a series of events such as the annual interfaith Blessing of the Bicycles at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles on Tuesday, May 12. For more information, visit [www.goodsam.org/news](http://www.goodsam.org/news).

Metro and LACBC are hosting a "Bike to Work Downtown L.A. Ride" Wednesday, May 13, to demonstrate how downtown workers coming from all areas of Los Angeles can easily access some of the most prominent area work sites, Metro Rail stations, civic and entertainment centers by bicycle.

Riders will congregate on the plaza of the Civic Center Metro Red Line Station starting



**BIKE PIT STOP STATIONS**

at 8 a.m., and will depart at 8:30 a.m. for a short 25-minute ride through downtown. The ride will end at the South Lawn of L.A. City Hall around 9 a.m.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has been invited to join bicyclists for this event. All local bicyclists are invited to participate in this demonstration ride. [Click here](#) for a map and pedometer of the planned Bike to Work Downtown L.A. Ride route.

Details of these and other bicycling events, helpful Metro Bike Pocket Guides with bike information on safety and bicycle parking locations along the Metro Rail system, and Metro bike maps with resource links are easily accessible on Metro's [Bike to Work](#) website.

All streets are open to bicyclists, but the Metro Bike Map is a guide of the 1,252 miles of bike infrastructure throughout Los Angeles County, bike paths, on-street bike lanes and designated bike routes. Free copies are available at any Metro Customer Center.

Among bikeways featured in the Metro Bike Map is the Metro Orange Line bikeway in the San Fernando Valley, which runs along the 14-mile Metro Orange Line from North Hollywood to the West Valley. This facility is part of more than 100 bikeway projects in Los Angeles County that Metro has funded. Among others are the Los Angeles River and in Whittier, Bellflower, and other bicycle infrastructure projects in the cities of Santa Clarita, Long Beach, Burbank, Pasadena, Calabasas, Claremont and others throughout the county, as well as bike bridges and underpasses.

In addition, Metro funded the first Long Beach Bikestation, one being planned in Santa Monica and bike lockers and racks at Metro Rail stations to encourage commuters to bike with transit.

Metro is co-hosting more than 40 bike pit stops with local organizations:

\* City of Los Angeles \* California Department of Justice \* illuminateLA \* Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) \* City of West Hollywood \* UCLA Transportation \* City of Santa Monica \* REI Santa Monica \* City of Pasadena \* Maguire Investments and Western Asset Management \* REI Arcadia \* Polytechnic School \* VNO Shops on Lake, LLC \* City of Glendale and Glendale TMA \* Foothill Transit \* Cal State LA \* City of Whittier \* City of Claremont \* City of Santa Fe Springs \* Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) \* The Aerospace Corporation and Raytheon \* City of Torrance \* City of Long Beach \* Long Beach Cyclists \* REI Northridge \* City of Santa Clarita and Newhall Bicycle Company \* Bicycle Mart \* Cal State Long Beach \* City of El Monte \* CSULB Cyclists \* El Camino College Compton Education Center \* Glendale Cyclery \* Helen's Cycles \* I. Martin Bicycles \* Los Angeles Trade Tech College \* Montrose Bike Shop \* National Multiple Sclerosis Society \* Jennie Cooks

[> LOCATIONS](#)

**PARTNERS & SPONSORS**

Metro is promoting Bike to Work Week in Los Angeles County with the following partners and sponsors:

\* City of Los Angeles \* Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC) \* Los Angeles Department of Transportation Bike Program \* Caltrans \* California Bicycle Coalition \* Good Samaritan Hospital \* REI \* Clif Bar \* Jax Bicycles \* Ocean Potion Suncare \* The Helmet Man \* Kaiser Permanente \* Laugh Factory \* Fox 11 \* KFI Radio \* Bike Lid Systems \* Black Angus Steakhouse \* Currie Technologies \* Cy Fi Wireless Sports \* Huntington Library \* Pedestrian Safety Products \* Red Mountain Resort & Spa \* Weinerschnitzel



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## FUN > Metro Family Day 2009



### < FUN

Philip Patino, in Logistics at MSSC, with Sabrina, Philip, Alyssa and Kristina, takes some fun time to get the family's photo with "Pluto"

### • 3,500 Metro employees, family members and friends attend Disneyland on Saturday, April 25, 2009, for the fifth annual Metro Family Day

(May 5, 2009) Metro CEO Art Leahy welcomed employees, their families and guests to the fifth annual Metro Family Day at Disneyland.

The popular event was sold out way in advance, said Danielle Boutier, Director, Communications Services, and attendance once again hit the maximum mark at 3,500.

Metro San Fernando Valley General Manager Richard Hunt, Metro San Gabriel Valley General Manager Jack Gabig, Metro Gateway Cities General Manager Alex Clifford and Metro South Bay General Manager Dana Coffey joined in the fun to welcome the Metro family to the celebration.

Incidentally, the Disneyland theme for 2009 is 'celebration,' an obvious choice for the celebrated theme park and even more appropriate for some, noted Boutier. "Several were there to celebrate their birthdays!" she said.

More fun facts! Everyone enjoyed an all-you-can-eat hot lunch buffet and delicious desserts. Children of all ages had their photos taken with Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Pluto, Donald Duck and other Disney characters.



**Fun ^** Cosette Stark (Communications) and son Sean; Anne Flores (Management Audit) and daughter Madison; Maya Emsden (Communications) and son Hayden. All three children are students together at the Gateway Child Development Center.

**FUN >**  
Keith Selico (Operator,  
Division 3) and son Keith



**< FUN**  
Rosalia Medina (Operator,  
Division 3) with Nicholas,  
Karizma and Klarizza





**Fun ^**

Al Lares (Operator, Division 9) and wife Gloria with children Matthew, Michael and Brianna

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Metro Board Member Pam O'Connor addresses first Sustainability Summit held May 28, 2008, at Metro Headquarters. The group reconvenes at MWD Headquarters on Wednesday to develop protocol for complying with climate change regulations.

## Sustainability Summit to tackle application of environmental requirements, regulations

- How should local government and agencies address climate change regulations and initiatives?
- Download [Second Annual Sustainability Summit program](#): Employees may attend sessions if space is available.
- More on Thursday: MWD presents the [Spring Green Fair](#) with 70 exhibits showcasing green products and services plus one-hour how-to workshops throughout the day.

(May 5, 2009) Metro will host the region's second annual Sustainability Summit for local city officials, government agencies and other key stakeholders on Wednesday, May 6. The day-long summit will be held at the MWD Headquarters from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The summit will consist of morning and afternoon concurrent breakout sessions providing legislation overview, requirements and tools for regional implementation of sustainable practices to assist in reaching regulatory compliance to fight global warming.

## AB32 and SB375 top the agenda

Specifically, the summit will offer focused presentations on AB32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and SB375, a Smart Growth initiative. Six breakout sessions are designed to assist participants in developing and improving sustainability practices within their organization.

AB 32 requires California to reduce statewide greenhouse gas (GHG)



emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. This is 13 percent below today's emissions and 28 percent below 2020 projected emissions. By 2050, emissions must be reduced percent below 1990 levels.

SB 375, also known as the Smart Growth Bill, focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through reducing the number of miles that residential vehicles are driven from a given geographical point to another, and also through land use planning. An example of this is transit-oriented development projects at Metro Rail stations.

At 9 a.m., CEO Art Leahy and MWD Asst. General Manager Gilbert Ivey will give welcoming remarks at the opening session, followed by 'big picture' overview of water conservation and sustainability goals for the region. Metro Board Member Pam O'Connor, who chairs Metro's Sustainability Ad-hoc Committee, will present an overview of Metro's sustainability programs.

**First steps lead to region-wide policy**

Convened by Director O'Connor, a legion of stakeholders took first steps May 28, 2008, at the first Sustainability Summit in a collaborative effort to develop a region-wide sustainability policy.

"We've heard from many different voices offering best practices in sustainability and climate action," said O'Connor in her closing remarks. "We will reconvene to collaborate, to learn together, and to put into action the best thinking in the region."

At the first summit, the group developed a sustainability survey that was distributed to all local government and agencies throughout the county to measure regional sustainability efforts and identify 'best practices' that would serve as guidelines for implementation.

Patrick Stoner, director of the Resource Conservation Programs, will present the results of that survey in an afternoon session at 1:45 p.m.

Sustainability practices are designed to preserve scarce resources today for the benefit of future generations. The practices encompass a wide variety of efforts from construction techniques that reduce energy consumption to recycling to water conservation to rideshare programs that also improve air quality and fight global warming. -- *from Gayle Anderson*

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*Photos courtesy of Mike Bottone*

Metro's six new 42-foot hybrid buses have been running regular service at the Venice, West Valley, North Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley divisions since January.

## Hybrid bus testing now under way at four divisions

- New technology makes buses more quiet, fuel efficient

By LAURA KLOTH  
Staff Writer

(May 7, 2009) Metro's greening efforts continue. This time in the form of six hybrid buses now being tested at four bus divisions.

The buses were acquired for about \$3.8 million, and since January, have been servicing patrons at the Venice, West Valley, North Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley divisions.

According to Mike Bottone, Director of Equipment Engineering, the buses operate on ultra capacitors instead of batteries. An ultra capacitor is a high-powered, energy dense electronic unit that provides power during acceleration, and then quickly recharges itself during normal braking. In between the acceleration cycles and braking, the engine is turning a generator that supplies the required power to the system.



The ultra capacitors are situated at the roof of the bus, keeping the bus design similar to other Metro buses.

Metro put the hybrid bus on display at L.A. County's 'Spotlight' Conversation held at Metro on Earth Day.

"When we do these type of things, we try to keep the buses as normal as possible," Bottone said.

**Reduces emissions and saves fuel**

The \$630,000 bus uses a Ford Triton V-10 gasoline engine, which is similar to the engine used in several Ford models. The 42-foot long vehicle is two feet longer than the standard bus, with room for two extra passengers.

Not only will the hybrid technology help reduce emissions, it will also save fuel, he said.

The typical diesel bus runs for 3.1 miles per gallon while early results show that a hybrid can run as much as 3.75 to 4.0 miles per gallon depending on the use.

The beauty of the technology is that it allows the bus to accelerate up to 50 miles an hour on hybrid energy - more than is needed for the stop-and-go driving on many routes, said Bottone.

The ride is quieter and because it reduces emissions, it is likely to help Metro comply with California Air Resources Board (CARB) requirements set for 2012, he added.

Division 15 Transportation Manager Gary Spivack said, so far, the buses are getting mixed reviews from the operators.

About 200 operators have been trained along with a select group of technicians, who are keeping everyone else up to speed.

"It's a nice bus and has a lot of pickup and great power. But it has some quirks in terms of how you have to control it. You have to be aware of certain things," said Spivack. "Will we buy more? I don't know."

**Customers love the look and feel**

Div. 15 Bus Operator Oscar Valdes has been driving one of the new buses on Line 234 to Sherman Oaks and says he's been extremely pleased with it.

"I hope they keep this bus forever," Valdes said, noting that it's "tremendously better" to operate compared to other buses he's driven



since he joined Metro in 1989.

It took a few hours of training to get use to the operation, Valdes said. "I noticed in the beginning, yeah, the bus has a lot of power. Once you keep control over the bus, it's OK," Valdes said.

Passengers have commented on the attractive appearance and reduced noise. "They're so happy. They feel like a kid with a new toy," Valdes said.

Once the testing is complete at the end of the year, some of the questions the board may have will deal with efficiency vs. the cost.

Although the hybrids are more fuel efficient, hybrid buses cost about \$150,000 more than the CNG buses.

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## myMetro Celebrates Class of 2009



The MyMetro List of Graduates is a compilation of Metro employees graduating from high school, vocational school or college in 2009 and those graduates who are the children or spouse of an employee. The List of Graduates is published in June.

### List of Graduates: Celebrating the Class of 2009

- Download and print your [2009 List of Graduates Form](#) here. (PDF)

(May 7, 2009) May and June are the "cap and gown" months for many families – a time to honor our high school, vocational school and college graduates.

Once again this year, the names of graduates will be listed in a special "Metro List of Graduates," a compilation of those who earned their diplomas, certificates or degrees in 2009.

If you or someone in your immediate family graduated last winter or will graduate this semester, *myMetro.net* wants to know. Last year more than 125 graduates were listed on the roster.

The names of Metro employees and the children and spouses of employees are eligible to be included in the published list. Due to a lack of space, the names of employees' grandchildren can no longer be included.

### Posted on web site end of June

The list of graduates will be posted in June on the *myMetro.net* web site and will be distributed as a special employee publication the following week.

To be included, employees must fill out and submit a "List of Graduates" form no later than June 12. Forms should be returned to Laura Kloth at mail stop 99-19-8 or faxed to 213-922-2704.

Forms are being delivered to all work locations. Additionally, the form can be downloaded from the intranet.

Metro "List of Graduates" forms also are available by mail or FAX by contacting Laura Kloth at 922-2445.


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In the APTA International winner's circle for the second time in three years, the championship Metro Bus team is awarded the coveted Grand Champion Awards in Seattle May 5. Pictured are, from left, North Los Angeles Division Bus Operator Juan Navarro, Metro South Bay GM Dana Coffey, the Arthur Winston Division champion maintenance team of Frank Forde, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren Jr. At far right is APTA President William A. Millar. The award recognizes the bus operator and maintenance team that has the highest combined score carved from the grueling obstacle course for operators and the mind-boggling tests of mechanical skills that matches mechanics against the clock to find and fix mechanical defects. *Photo by Heather Trimm, courtesy of APTA.*

## Metro Bus Team Wins Grand Champion Title at 2009 International Bus Rodeo in Seattle

- It's the second victory lap for the high-scoring Metro team - Metro brought home the gold in 2007, too.

(May 7, 2009) Metro has won the Grand Champion Award at the prestigious 2009 International Bus Rodeo -- a competition generally regarded as the Super Bowl for bus operators and mechanics.

More than 50 public transportation systems in North American competed this week in Seattle, Wash. Winners were announced at an awards dinner May 5. The annual competition is held in conjunction with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Bus and Paratransit Conference.

The honor recognizes men and women who keep North America's bus systems safe and efficient. It is given to the bus operator and maintenance teams that have the highest combined score in a series of events testing bus operators' driving skills and mechanics' abilities to troubleshoot mechanical problems and fix them quickly.



The Metro maintenance team of Frank Forde, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren Jr. along with operator Juan Navarro came in first or second in four of six timed technical events, accumulating enough points to beat out scores of competitors from transit agencies across the country and Canada. Fifty-three bus operators competed in the operator contest for 40-foot buses. Thirty-six teams competed in the maintenance contest.

The Metro team scored highest in the rankings to beat out the second runner up San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority and the third place Capital Metro Transportation Authority from Austin, Tex.

The Metro maintenance team also bagged a Special Maintenance Award for "Best Score" for racking up perfect scores in two categories of the competition.



Metro takes center stage at the 2009 International Bus Rodeo awards banquet when the Metro team picked up the Grand Championship trophies for the second time in three years. In the winner's circle are, from left, Metro South Bay GM Dana Coffey, Div. 5 Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Marco Pedemonte, Div. 5 Maintenance Manager Alex DiNuzzo, Central Instruction Sr. Equipment Maintenance Instructor Steve Mullaly, Chief Operations Officer Carolyn Flowers (center, back row), maintenance team members Frank Forde, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren Jr., Central Instruction Operations Asst. Instruction Manager Frank Cecere, champion Operator Juan Navarro, and Mary Ann and Richard Hunt, Metro San Fernando Valley GM.

*Photo courtesy of Alex DiNuzzo.*

"This is a wonderful achievement and is a reflection of the skills and accomplishments of the outstanding people who run Metro's transit system," said Metro CEO Art Leahy.

The maintenance team of Warren, Vargas and Forde are assigned to Arthur Winston Metro Division 5; operator Navarro is with Metro's North Los Angeles Division 3.



**The home team advantage** - from left, Arthur Winston Division 5 champion mechanics Andrew Warren, Jr., Rommel Vargas and Frank Forde and North Los Angeles Division 3 Operator Juan Navarro, who claimed victory at the 2008 Metro Bus Rodeo in Los Angeles, went on to Seattle to win the prestigious 34th APTA 2009 International Bus Rodeo held May 3. *Photo by Gayle Anderson*

Metro teams have consistently placed high in the annual competition and won the prestigious Grand Champion award just two years ago at the 32nd International Bus Rodeo held in Nashville, Tenn in 2007.

The 2007 Champion team of Metro mechanics Frank Forde, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren Jr., along with top operator Mark Holland, came in first or second in four of six timed technical events, accumulating enough points to beat out 46 other teams and win by a significant margin of 35 points.

"In 2010, Metro will take the field at the next APTA Rodeo as the Defending International Champion! We will be ready!" said CEO Leahy.

*-- from Gayle Anderson*

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## FY10: Going Places



The operation of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension to East Los Angeles is among other major transportation advances in the coming fiscal year. *Photo: Gary Leonard*

## Metro to Hold Public Hearing May 20 on Proposed FY10 Budget

By RICK JAGER

(May 12, 2009) Metro will hold a public hearing on a draft \$3.905 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2009-10 on Wednesday, May 20, at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor Board room at Metro Headquarters, One Gateway Plaza next to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles.

Metro directors will consider adopting the budget, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, at their Thursday, May 28, meeting that starts at 9:30 a.m. at Metro headquarters.

CEO Art Leahy has proposed a spending plan that is \$507 million or just under 15 percent more than the current Metro budget. The increase is largely due to a spate of new highway and transit building projects such as construction of a 10-mile northbound carpool lane on the I-405 freeway from the 10 to 101 freeways. Altogether, Metro will undertake \$636 million in new programs in FY10, funded largely with federal stimulus funds and the new Measure R transit sales tax that will be collected starting July 1.

Among other major transportation advances in the coming fiscal year, Metro will begin operation of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension to East Los Angeles, purchase 219 compressed natural gas buses for Metro and its contract carriers (the purchase of larger buses will increase Metro's bus seat capacity 1 percent), continue construction of the Expo light rail line from downtown Los Angeles to Culver City, begin construction of a four



mile extension of the popular Metro Orange Line busway from Canoga Park to Chatsworth and advance numerous planning studies for new transit projects throughout Los Angeles County.

As mandated by Measure R, there will be no general Metro fare increase in FY10, and fares for seniors, students, the disabled and Medicare recipients will stay at current levels for five years. The new transit sales tax that begins July 1 will keep Metro fares low, however, the Metro Board must still grapple with higher operating costs and cuts in other revenue.

California lawmakers have completely eliminated state transit assistance, which, in recent years has provided Metro with about \$100 million annually in operating dollars. Local Props. A & C transit sales tax revenue also is projected to decline 10 percent over the current fiscal year due to the recession. In addition, Metro is negotiating new contracts this spring with its major labor unions representing operators, maintenance employees and clerks.

Despite the drop in revenue, Metro will not raise fares or consider major service reductions. However, Metro has cut expenses by more than \$130 million and imposed a hiring freeze. It also will dip into reserves to balance the FY10 budget.

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## Work begins on I-405 HOV lane through the Sepulveda Pass



(May 12, 2009) Officials for Metro and Caltrans join California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger May 8 at a site in West Los Angeles adjacent to the I-405 freeway during Friday afternoon rush-hour traffic to launch construction of a northbound HOV lane that will run 10 miles through the busy Sepulveda Pass area and require new freeway ramps, bridge construction, 18 miles of retaining walls and widening the freeway. The \$1.03 billion project is expected to create 18,000 local construction jobs during an estimated four and a half years to completion. The northbound HOV lane will be built on the I-405 between the I-10 and U.S. 101 and is a joint project between Metro and Caltrans. A southbound carpool lane has already been constructed in the corridor.



**The Mayor:** "This project will do something about this gridlock."



**The Governor:** "This is the most congested freeway section in the nation."

**Sign of the Times:** The Metro contingent takes a bow at the Reinvestment Act marker that will be erected at projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. From left, California State Assemblyman Bob Blumenfield (D-40, Woodland Hills), who was responsible for pushing through a state assembly bill that would direct \$1.6 billion of federal stimulus funds for California to regional transportation agencies, cities and counties; K.N. Murthy, Deputy Chief Capital Management Officer; Girish Roy, Director, Construction Management; Metro Board Member Richard Katz; Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; David Yale, DEO, Countywide Planning and Development; Board Member and LADOT General Manager Rita Robinson, and Michael Barbour, EO, Highway Project Management.



Photos: Gary Leonard



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Framed by the familiar skyline of the Elysian Park hills, the SCRTD Division 3 bus yard in 1960 Cypress Park grew into the current facility pictured here in 2003.

## CEO Leahy begins agency-wide tour of divisions on familiar ground

- North Los Angeles Division 3 is where CEO Leahy joined Metro as a bus operator 38 years ago and where his parents worked as trolley car operators.

Contributed by Dave Hershenson

*Community Relations Manager, Metro San Gabriel Valley*

(May 12, 2009) When CEO Art Leahy visited North Los Angeles Division 3 recently, the first stop on an agency-wide tour, he was on familiar ground. Division 3 was the site of the beginning of a lifelong transit career for Metro's new CEO, who clocked in as a newly hired bus operator 38 years ago.

In fact, Division 3 goes way back in the Leahy family tree. The Cypress Park bus yard was the site where his parents worked as trolley car operators.

The rest, as they say, is transit history.



On familiar ground, CEO Leahy tours North Los Angeles Division 3 with Chief of Operations Carolyn Flowers and Metro San Gabriel Valley GM Jack Gabig.

*Photo: Dave Hershenson*

Metro San Gabriel Valley General Manager Jack Gabig, joined by key sector and division staff management, led the tour on April 30. Others participating included Chief Operations Officer Carolyn Flowers, Special Assistant to the CEO Ron Schwartz, general managers Alex Clifford, Dana Coffey, Richard Hunt and Mark Maloney, and UTU Local Chairperson Lisa Arrendondo.

The tour began in the transportation building with Transportation Manager Dan Frawley escorting CEO Leahy through various areas of the building, eventually ending up in the operator's break room where an impromptu contingent of Division 3 staff were gathering.

Addressing the importance of delivering quality service to our customers and the need to improve on-time performance reliability, CEO Leahy asked those in attendance what the agency's biggest challenges were and what ideas they might have for improvements.



When CEO Leahy met Bus Operator Michael McQuarrie during his tour of North Los Angeles Division 3, he learned that McQuarrie had been on the job for just nine days. Said CEO Leahy: "It's great to finally meet someone at Metro with less seniority than I have!" *Photo: Dave Hershenson*

After the group discussion, the tour moved to the maintenance yard, where Maintenance Manager Cliff Thorne took over the tour. There CEO Leahy met some of the division's mechanics, supervisors and service attendants. They discussed a number of topics related to maintenance, including the importance of putting clean buses on the street. CEO Leahy also got the opportunity to see the new Division 3 maintenance annex, which is nearing completion.

His parting words were no less prophetic than a famous quote gleaned from the first career of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger: "I'll be back."



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Committee Items

Public Hearing on proposed FY10 budget tops May agendas; committees to consider budget document, conversion of CNG fueling facilities, renewing specialized transportation programs

Items for review:

- **Planning and Programming Committee Item 5:** Funding for Specialized Transportation Programs that serve people with disabilities, frail elderly, welfare participants, indigents, low-income transit riders, and people with immediate transportation needs.
- **Finance and Budget Committee Item 8:** Consider a recommendation to issue refunding bonds to reduce debt service to achieve interest rate savings.
- **Finance and Budget Committee Item 9:** [Public Hearing](#) May 20 on Proposed FY10 Budget / Committee to consider budget document in advance of full Board review.
- **Finance and Budget Committee Item 10:** Approve the FY10 Sustainability Projects and Budget
- **Construction Committee Item 21:** Metro Orange Line Extension work order for railroad modification work and at-grade rail crossing safety enhancements at Lassen Street overcrossing.
- **Operations Committee Item 24:** Electrification conversion of CNG Fueling Facilities with funds made available through ARRA

(May 14, 2009) The Finance and Budget Committee will review the proposed FY10 budget and take public comments at a [public hearing](#) May 10. CEO Art Leahy has proposed a spending plan that is \$507 million or just under 15 percent more than the current Metro budget.

Metro directors will consider adopting the budget, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, at May 28 board meeting.

**Item 5** on the Planning and Programming Committee agenda revisits MOUs with Shelter Partnership, Rider Relief Transportation and Immediate Needs Transportation programs, service providers that serve people with disabilities, frail elderly, welfare participants, indigents, low-income transit riders, and people with immediate transportation needs. The recommendation to execute new MOUs is made to continue funding for five years beginning in FY10 without disruption or cancellations of services made available to those with limited transportation options.

May Committee Meetings

Wednesday, May 20

1 p.m. – Planning and Programming  
2:30 p.m. – Public Hearing FY10 Proposed Budget  
2:30 p.m. – Finance and Budget

Thursday, May 21

CANCELLED – Measure R Project Delivery Committee  
10:30 a.m. – Executive Management and Audit  
12 noon – Construction  
1 p.m. – Operations Committee

Thursday, May 28

9:30 a.m. – Regular Board Meeting

**Item 21** on the Construction Committee agenda is a recommendation to negotiate and execute work order agreements with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) for railroad modification work and at-grade rail crossing safety enhancements as part of the Metro Orange Line Extension project. SCRRA maintains and operates the railroad and shares tracks with Union Pacific and Amtrak. The accelerated schedule for the MOL Extension requires that the existing tracks and train control signal modifications along the Metro right-of-way be completed by November 2009, prior to the start of construction of the Lassen Street over-crossing. The grade-separation bridge over the operating railroad at Lassen Street is critical to the accelerated schedule to complete the Metro Orange Line Extension project by the summer of 2012.

**Item 24** on the Operation Committee agenda would allow Metro to proceed with the electrification of CNG fueling facilities at three bus divisions with funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The project includes modifications to fully electrify compression of natural gas for the bus fleet by replacing gas-burning engines with electric motors.

The first phase of the electrification conversion, required by new standards set by South Coast Air Quality Management District to decrease emissions from gas-fueled engines, will provide utility upgrades at Divisions 1, 5 and 7.

-- from Gayle Anderson



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## Obituaries

### UPDATE

### Services Scheduled for Mary Wilson, 27-Year Metro Employee

- **Memorial Service** is Saturday, May 23, at 11 a.m., at Custer Christiansen Mortuaries, 114 S. Glendora Ave., in West Covina, Calif., 91790.
- **Repast to follow** at American Legion, 330 N. Azusa Ave., in West Covina, Calif., 91791



Mary Wilson

(May 14, 2009) Services are scheduled for Mary Wilson, a 27-year Metro employee who died Sunday.

Ms. Wilson, 46, was hired on Sept. 9, 1981 as a cash clerk, and most recently was working as a Materiel Inventory Analyst at Metro Support Services Center.

Materiel Planning Manager Cathy Kaminski said Ms. Wilson was a "pleasure to work with and was hardworking. She was one that took on new concepts easily."

Storekeeper Sherley Bourland said she befriended Ms. Wilson soon after meeting her at Division 2 and remained her close friend for the past 24 years.

Bourland remembers Ms. Wilson as being a great friend and "a conscientious and dependable employee," who enjoyed going to concerts and plays outside of work. "She was my maid of honor when I got married," Bourland said.

She said Ms. Wilson was a very giving person who had a lot of friends, and loved her two cats, Terminator and Jazette.

Ms. Wilson, who lived in West Covina, is survived by her mother, Brenda Wilson of Ontario, who retired as a mechanic at Metro; a brother, Metro Customer Service Agent Travis Hawkins; a sister Candy; and one niece and two nephews.

Ms. Wilson celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> year of service at Metro in Sept. 2006. Bourland said she was pushing to mark her 30<sup>th</sup>. -- from Laura Kloth





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**[ Club Scene ]**



The Lunch Walkers @ Metro team joined forces for the Revlon Run/Walk May 9 at Exposition Park.

Participants include \* Jose Acosta \* Milagritos Acosta \* Maria L. Aguilar \* Carlos Alvarado \* Kirsten Bell \* Frances Calzada \* Juanita Cook \* Jessica Cook \* Isabella M. Davila \* Maria Diaz \* Juan Diaz \* Carlos Fabro \* Mariah C. Felix \* Claudia Galicia \* Kiana A. Garcia \* Vilma Hernandez \* Silvia Huaste \* Duane Martin \* Andrea Murrell \* Glenda Murrell \* Paula Faust \* Sal Perez \* Maria Puentes \* Jennifer Ramirez \* Alejandro Ramirez \* Martha Ramirez \* Jessica Ramirez \* Ricky Rodriguez \* Jose Vasquez

**Lunch Walkers Raise Funds for Cancer Research**

- New walkers always welcome

By LAURA KLOTH  
*Staff Writer*

(May 14, 2009) The Lunch Walkers @ Metro recently completed their second Revlon Run/Walk on May 9 at Exposition Park, raising \$1,782 to help fund women's cancer research.

And while the money raised this year was less than the \$5,000 raised last year, the group's leader, Customer Relations Agent Vilma Hernandez, said the event went wonderfully and fulfilled its purpose.

"It was fun. You feel the energy of hope because you see a lot of ladies

that are survivors. It is possible for us to find a cure," she said, noting the group is actively recruiting members.

This year, Hernandez said, she was especially inspired by two participants, Customer Service Agent Maria Diaz, who is currently battling cancer, and Train Operator Glenda Murrell, who actually survived the disease.



Customer Service Agent Maria Diaz, who is currently battling cancer, and Train Operator Glenda Murrell, a cancer survivor, inspire others who walk for cancer research.

"It is an inspiration that one is a survivor, and one is going through chemo, and they are still walking," Hernandez said. "To me, that motivates and inspires me to do this type of walk to help find a cure for anyone. Anyone could be next."

The Lunch Walkers have been going strong for more than a year now, and currently boasts 30 steady walkers including Rail Transportation Operations Director Duane Martin, who applauds members for inspiring one another and creating "great camaraderie" as they work to stay healthy.





Rail Transportation Operations Director Duane Martin, a committed member of the Lunch Walkers, met up with Club President Vilma Hernandez to carry the club banner at the Revlon Run/Walk.

---

Martin said his walking regimen usually occurs at home after work due to scheduling conflicts, but he is always inspired by the efforts of the club and encouraging emails sent by Hernandez, adding the group is hoping to participate in the Diabetes walk in October.

The group held its first salad luncheon in February feasting on healthy foods such as ground turkey albondiga (meatball) soup, a variety of green salads with light dressings and desserts. A second salad feast is planned for June.

The event is the culmination of the Lunch Walkers' weekly salad lunch events, at which members take turns buying and creating salads to get each other to eat healthier during the work week.

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Salad days: With soup in the crock pot and fruit for dessert, the Lunch Walkers' salad bar tops the nutrition charts, tastes better than anything, and makes everyone smile the rest of the day.

---

Hernandez thanked those who attended the event as she made the rounds in the third-floor Overflow Board Room. Hernandez has been getting more members, motivating them with daily email reminders to walk, and always including excellent tips on health and nutrition in her emails.

New members are required to commit to walking 30 to 35 minutes, three times a week during your lunch break or before or after work. Some walkers venture through the Union Station tunnel, while others prefer to hike up and down the stairs.

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Metro gets ready as the Los Angeles Marathon changes course for the 2009 race, returning to the loop course that begins and ends in downtown Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Marathon XXIII let loose at Universal City in 2008. Photo by Gary Leonard.

## A spectator sport: One million race fans will line the course of the L.A. Marathon

- Eight Metro Rail stations are within walking distance of 24th L.A. Marathon 26-mile course that begins and ends in downtown Los Angeles
- This year's course on Memorial Day will impact 43 Metro Bus lines in downtown Los Angeles, Mid-City, USC/Exposition Park, West Adams, Mid-Wilshire, Hancock Park, Beverly Hills, Crenshaw District and Koreatown.

By José Ubaldo

(May 19, 2009) With more than 20,000 participants, 12,000 volunteers, and one million spectators along the course route, Metro Rail continues to be the best way for race fans to view thousands of runners during the 24th annual Los Angeles Marathon to be held Memorial Day, Monday, May 25.

The course for this year's race is the popular 2005-2006 loop course, which starts in the midst of downtown Los Angeles at Fifth and Figueroa streets and finishes in the shadow of the historic Los Angeles Central Library at Flower and Fifth streets on Monday morning.

The route starts in downtown Los Angeles and makes a grand loop to the south and west before heading east to the finish line. Runners will pass landmarks including Staples Center, the University of Southern California, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, see the Hollywood sign and Griffith Observatory in the distance and run along the city border with Beverly Hills before heading back east via the Miracle Mile and passing the Los Angeles

County Museum of Art and the LaBrea Tar Pits as they head to the finish downtown.

Eight Metro Rail stations will be within walking distance of the 26-mile race course. The closest Metro Rail stations to the Marathon route will be 7th Street Metro Center and Pershing Square stations on the Metro Red/Purple Line subway, just a few blocks from the beginning and the end of the race in the heart of downtown Los Angeles.

The Metro Blue Line Pico/Chick Hearn station is also close to the race course along Figueroa Street. Other Metro Rail stations will be Westlake/McArthur Park, Wilshire/Vermont and Wilshire/Normandie, a short walk to Olympic Boulevard. The Wilshire/Western station is close either to Olympic Boulevard or Gramercy Place. All Metro Rail service will run on a Sunday schedule.

This year's course will impact 43 Metro Bus lines in downtown Los Angeles, Mid-City, USC/Exposition Park, West Adams, Mid-Wilshire, Hancock Park, Beverly Hills, Crenshaw District and Koreatown.

The bus services changes and detours for the Metro Bus system will occur between 4 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Metro Bus lines impacted by this year's LA Marathon will included: 16, 18, 20, 26, 28, 30, 33, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42, 51, 53, 55, 60, 62, 66, 81, 102, 105, 200, 204, 206, 207, 210, 212, 217, 305, 439, 444, 445, 446, 460, 487, 534, 720, 754, 757, 760.

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Photos: Gayle Anderson

An anti-traffic audience of nearly 200 alternative transportation enforcers attend the 11th Annual Rideshare Diamond Awards hosted by Metro Commute Services at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel.

## 11th annual Diamond Awards honor top traffic-busting commuter programs in Southern California

- **Traffic Stoppers:** Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura County transportation officials hand out 25 glittering Diamond Awards Tuesday to Southern California employers who are putting commuters into the fast lane with alternative transportation options.

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(May 19, 2009) From the super-sized savings in commuters' pockets to a decrease in gasoline consumption and emissions reflected in recent public transportation ridership tallies, the concept of ridesharing is fast emerging from a disregarded option perceived as inconvenient into an acceptable, reliable and even preferred commute of choice.

That is why transit officials gave more than a tip of the hat to the frontline employee transportation coordinators at the 11th annual Diamond Awards on Tuesday, handing out some 25 glittering Diamond Awards to top-producing Southern California employers at an awards luncheon held at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

Hosted by Metro Commute Services, Ventura County Transportation Commission and Orange County Transportation Agency, the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Rideshare Diamond Awards showcased the alternative transportation programs of employers whose unflinching stick-to-itiveness continues to chip away at traffic congestion by providing their employees with a full range of commuter options,



services and programs.



At left, Blue Diamond Award winner Kaiser Permanente took top honors. Above, OCTA's Sandy Boyle and Metro Commute Services Director David Sutton with Kaiser's pioneering ETC Virginia Gonzalez

### **Illuminating a stellar effort in unraveling the region's huge traffic knot, the Corporate Diamond Award for 2009 was awarded to Kaiser Permanente, headquartered in Pasadena.**

Kaiser Permanente's commitment to health extends to the health care provider's highly-effective and committed rideshare program for a 30,000-strong workforce located at 18 facilities throughout Southern California. The lifetime achievement award went to the health care provider's former employee transportation coordinator and past president of the Southern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation, Virginia Gonzalez, whose appreciation for Diamond lanes some 20 years ago led to a lifelong career in promoting alternative transportation for commuters.

In an array of categories that demonstrate the multifaceted approach needed to corral the region's errant traffic, 25 rideshare programs coordinated by employers in Ventura, Los Angeles and Orange counties were singled out for recognition.

By promoting public transportation options in the face of the daily traffic grind, Southern California employers offer solutions to the problem posed by solo drivers, noted co-host Alan Holmes, Ventura County Transportation Commission.

Among them, the top rideshare programs in Los Angeles County included Kaiser-Permanente; California State University, Los Angeles; Transamerica Life Insurance Companies; UCLA; Los Angeles World Airports; California Polytechnic State University, Pomona; Walt Disney Co., City of Pasadena; Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association; Herbalife International; County of Los Angeles; Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; Esterline-Mason Company, and California Institute of Technology.

Photographer Juan Ocampo snaps Metro Commute Services team at the 11th annual Diamond Awards. Team members include event coordinator Donna Blanchard, Rita Linsey, Helana Morad, Edith Goff-Youngblood, Agnes Jose-Eguaras, Jocelyn Feliciano, Teresa Milliken, Liz Armijo-Holbrook, Sarah Zadok, Mary Ann Garcia, Loren Hollis, Juan Miranda, Eva Rodriguez, Laura Almeda, Jill Smolinski, Valerie Rader, David Sutton and Rickey Walker. Metro's own employee



transportation coordinator, Terree Holman, was singled out and commended for developing a system that makes it easier to distribute fare media.

"The Diamond Awards highlight the important work that employers do to ease traffic and improve air quality in Southern California," said David Sutton, director of Metro Commute Services.

Although some form of organized ridesharing has been around since the 1970s, the recent peak in alternatives to the single-occupancy vehicle mode of transportation may signal a turning point in relieving traffic congestion on the car-laden corridors of Southern California, he said.



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**Obituaries**

**Debra Deener, 9-year Metro Employee, dies at 60**

- **UPDATE** Services are scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, at 9 a.m. in the Church of Our Heritage Chapel at [Covina Hills Forest Lawn](#), 21300 Via Verde Drive, in Covina, Calif. 91724. Information: 1-800-204-3131
- [Remembering Debra Deener](#) - Employees share their memories

(May 21, 2009) Services are scheduled for Customer Information Agent Debra Deener, 60, who passed away May 19.

Upon learning of her death, Director of Customer Relations Gail Harvey presented an announcement to her employees, stating: "I regret to inform you that Debra Deener passed peacefully May 19, 2009, with her daughter, Tia, at her side."

Born on Jan. 8, 1949, in Cleveland, Ohio, Ms. Deener began working at Metro on July 17, 2000, as a part-time Customer Information Agent, and was promoted on Oct. 29, 2000, to full-time, said Employee Records and Verification Specialist Claudia Kwon. In 2005, Ms. Deener earned a Service Award in 2005 for five years of service.



Debra Deener

As a previous Customer Relations employee herself, Kwon said she worked with Ms. Deener before changing departments, and remembers her as an "independent and kind person" who would often share tips on the best places to eat. "She was really sweet. She was really nice," Kwon said.

Ms. Deener had been on sick leave since December 2008. Her last days were spent at the home of her daughter, Tia Rowe, in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

"I only knew Debra for about three years, but during that time I found her to be a fun-loving character and she always referred to me as 'Boss,' said Gail Harvey, Director, Customer Relations. She came into my office often to just speak and to get a piece of candy. Upon leaving, she would say, 'Now I can now go to work.' She will truly be missed."

Communications Manager Alonzo Williams said she was a "very, very hard worker who was very dependable. We'll miss her dearly. I can't say enough positive things about her."

In lieu of flowers, donations made in the name of Debra Deener can be sent to: The American Cancer Society, PO Box 22718, Oklahoma City, Okla., 73123. Cards and correspondence can be sent to Tia Rowe, c/o 6175 Shoreacres Lane, Fontana, Calif. 92336

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[ Club Scene @ Metro ]



[Check it out:](#) Directions, things to see and do at AAEE's Juneteenth outing on June 20.

**AAEA Plans Traditional "Juneteenth" celebration at Soledad Canyon resort campgrounds**

- **New!** Test your skills at Lazer Tag

By LAURA KLOTH  
Staff Writer

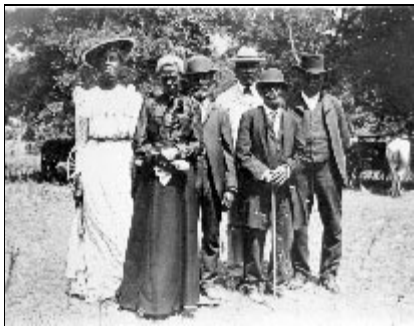
(May 21, 2009) Metro's African American Employees Association (AAEA), in partnership with the Metropolitan Water District Black Employee Association, will host a traditional "Juneteenth" celebration on the grounds of a private resort and campground in Soledad Canyon June 20.

Juneteenth commemorates the June 1865 announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas.

Featuring a barbecue and a playground of activities from swimming to golf and even horseback riding, the day-long event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 20 at the Soledad Canyon Thousand Trails Resort, said event organizer and AAEE member, Renee Willis. Camping facilities and cabins are available for those interested in a weekend stay, she said.

"We use to have Juneteenth off site on the weekends, and this year, we thought it would be a good idea to institute it again so people could invite their families," said Metro Senior Contract Administrator and event co-organizer, Susan Dove.

Indicating the event falls on Father's Day



A Juneteenth outing in Austin, Texas, circa 1900.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day federal troops arrived on Galveston Island to take possession of the state of Texas and enforce the emancipation of its slaves. That day has since become known as Juneteenth, a name derived from the words June and nineteenth.

Though the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued on September 22,

weekend, she said some who have purchased tickets are open to that idea. "There's a lot of people that are saying what a better way to spend Father's Day, than to be enjoying the outdoors," she said.

The outing will feature a barbecue and a variety of resort amenities including the popular new "lazer tag," shuffleboard, swimming pools, tennis and volleyball courts, line dancing, hay rides and crafts.

"It's going to be a nice event, something different," said AAEA member Veronica Hargrove.



Using his best motivational skills, Digital Technician Keith Hanson shares information about the upcoming Juneteenth Celebration with workers comp analysts Maria Robles and Yvonne Ibaven.

1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863, it had little immediate effect on most slaves' day-to-day lives, particularly in Texas, which was almost entirely under Confederate control, noted a report in Wikipedia.

More on Juneteenth at [www.juneteenth.com](http://www.juneteenth.com) and in [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia)

As it stands, about 60 tickets will be available, but more may be added depending on demand.

Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$18 for children. The price includes a barbecue lunch.

AAEA members will be selling tickets at a table set up between noon and 12:30 p.m. on the third floor lobby of Gateway headquarters.

For more information, contact Renee Willis at (626) 818-3631 or Susan Dove at (213) 922-7451.

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CEO Art Leahy, center, gave the commencement speech at the recent graduation of 14 new train operators and congratulated one and all.

## Reporting for Duty: Rail Graduates Get Safety Reminders

- New grads will assist with the opening of Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension

By Laura Kloth  
*Staff Writer*

(May 21, 2009) Preparing to step into their new positions, Metro's newest rail operations graduates received some safety reminders from rail manager and top boss -- CEO Art Leahy.

Citing Metro's "landmark" openings for the Red, Blue and Green lines, Leahy reminded the graduates that the grand opening of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension will be equally monumental.

"Metro is no longer just a bus company. It's a transit company. We don't have a rail company or a bus company. We have a transit company," Leahy told the group of 14 graduates at a luncheon and certificate presentation May 15.

When Metro Rail GM Mike Cannell took the podium to welcome the new train operators to Metro Rail, he opened with a smile, telling the graduates about how a charismatic operator became the standard bearer of a "good attitude" campaign.

On board a Metro Gold Line train, Cannell enjoys



CEO Art Leahy: "We're all in this together."



the running commentary of Metro Rail Operator Ruben "Running Wolf" Hernandez, who often treats his customers to impromptu safety presentations on his Metro Gold Line runs.

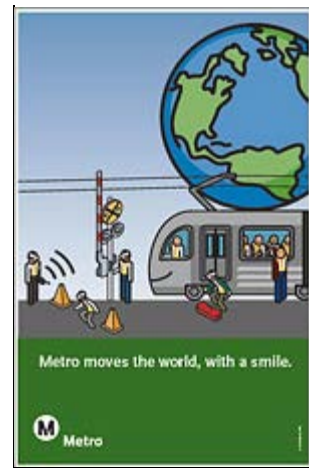
During that first trip, Cannell looked around and noticed the diversity on board could very well represent the whole world. And, because of Running Wolf's camaraderie, they were all smiling.

So, along with a graduation certificate, Cannell now hands out a poster of an illustration of a smiling Metro train carrying a globe of the world and smiling passengers on board framed by the slogan "Metro moves the world, with a smile."

It's a recurrent theme that Cannell uses to remind new graduates to make the trip on Metro Rail not only safe and courteous, but a very pleasant experience for Metro customers.

Rail Division Transportation Manager Davide Puglisi said everyone has been paying more attention to Metro because the agency has "gained the confidence of the riding public." He added, "We're fast. We're clean. We're safe."

Puglisi said the Eastside Extension will run through a neighborhood that hasn't had train service in 40 years. "The community isn't used to seeing our big trains going down the street at 35 miles an hour, " he said.



Rail GM Mike Cannell gave graduates a poster of a smiling Metro train carrying a globe of the world and smiling passengers on board framed by the slogan "Metro moves the world, with a smile."



Class of May '09: Back row from left, Director of Rail Transportation Operations, Duane Martin, and graduates Zouheir Mohtadi, Jesus Valdez, James Brook, Jerry McCoy, Christopher Cline, Bertrand Ball, Joseph Cuevas, Jose Gallardo. Middle row: Keith Lee, Sixto Valadez, Donna Quay, Charletta Berry, Irma Junyk, Christopher Parker. Instructors are, front row from left, Hector Gutierrez, Will Johnson, Cristobal Medina, Arnold "A.J." Johnson and Luis Canal. Not pictured: Instructors Esther Pippins and Gerald Harper.

While it is yet to be determined where the 14 graduates will be permanently assigned, 12 of them will work as switch attendants along the alignment of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. The two remaining



graduates will return to bus duties until a rail position becomes available.

Among the graduates is Jesus Valdez, a 19-year employee, who worked as a rail operator from 2000 to 2005 and decided to return. Valdez said he was excited about coming back and being able to work on the new project. "Safety is No. 1 here for our operation and customers," he said.



It's official: Rail GM Mike Cannell with graduates Charletta Berry, left, and Jesus Valdez, right.



Graduate Charletta Berry, who joined Metro in the mid-90s said she switched to rail to do something different. Certified on the Metro Red Line, Berry thanked her instructor Arnold "A.J." Johnson for being so patient during class.

Graduate Donna Quay, a 29-year bus operator, said she decided to move from bus to rail because it was a good time in her life since her children are grown and married.

"I had a very nice run. I liked it. You know, you just get to a point where you need to do something different," Quay said.

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West Hollywood Division 7 Transportation Manager Grant Myers and Metro Westside/Central General Manager Mark Maloney flank Operator Lorenzo Morrison as he collects award for 19 years of operating on the road and in the yards without an accident or lost-time injury. Background: Asst. Transportation Mgr. Johnny Lindsey sorts it out.

## West Hollywood Division Tops the Safety Charts in May

- Transportation side goes 90 days without a single injury resulting in lost time; 212 operators collect safety awards for one to twenty years of accident-free operation

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(May 28, 2009) Grant Myers, the perennial transportation manager back from retirement, say, four years now, stuck to his script at the West Hollywood Division safety awards program on Tuesday. With a list of 212 operators up for individual safety awards, Myers was there to announce the considerable feat of having accomplished, as a group, ninety consecutive days without an injury that resulted in lost time for any of the 430 or so bus operators on the job at West Hollywood Division 7.

"I want to thank you all for working safely during that period and for working safely all the time," he said. Then he made an astounding announcement that brought the training room to cheers: "We've been going over the numbers and actually – in the last 5 years – we've reduced our injury rate by two-thirds. We're doing really well on reducing injuries, and, we've reduced our accident rate by one whole point."



Asst. Transportation Manager Alicia Walker, center, and Transit Operations Supervisors Victoria Graham, Shametha Wallace, Tamika Batiste and Shanay Velasquez reward everyone with a celebration luncheon.

If the ninety days achievement was the reason for the El Pollo Loco luncheon (laid out buffet style by Asst. Transportation Manager Alicia Walker and Transit Operations Supervisors Tamika Batiste, Shametha Wallace, Victoria Graham, and Shanay Velasquez), it was also the opportunity for Myers to hand out 212 individual safety awards for operators with one to twenty years of accident-free operation on the road and in the yards.



Operator Walter Clayton, accident-free for 3 years, above, and, Kelli Fisher, with a one-year badge, at left, were among the 212 operators collecting safety awards at West Hollywood Division.

Who all? See [Roster of safety awards](#).

Here's where the script came in handy. Myers, assisted by Assistant Transportation Manager Johnny Lindsey behind the window sorting out the prizes by name and year, began the roll call. But since all the operators couldn't be there at the same time – several were out on a run or on a different shift – Myers had to skip through the names of those operators until he called out a name that drew thumps, cheers and whoo-hoos. That meant the award recipient was present and on his or her way to the front of the room to get congratulated by Manager Myers and Westside/Central General Manager Mark Maloney, who never stopped smiling at the abundance of grit and professionalism in the long list of safe and sure operators.



"These awards demonstrate that safety is our No. 1

priority," said GM Maloney. "And, it's a reward for how operators stay safe on the buses, coming in and out of yards and the many transitions. It is truly significant when you have this many operators running in this type of environment and not having any lost-time injuries.

"And, it has to do with our customers, too," he said. "When the operators are there safe and on time, that means the service is more efficient, more effective. Customers get the rides that they need."

Although the award recipients couldn't all be there, everybody on the safety honor roll receives a baseball cap embroidered with a Metro corporate safety logo and personalized with the number of years of driving safely. Those with safety records amounting to milestone years of 5, 10, 15 and 20 also receive the coveted Metro belt buckle.



Operator Larry Crane, a 27-year Metro veteran, collects embroidered trophy for 18 years of accident-free operation from West Hollywood Division 7 Transportation Manager Grant Myers and Metro Westside/Central General Manager Mark Maloney.

And what does all that mean to the operators behind that big wheel? "A lot of hard work, but I enjoy it," said Operator Larry Crane, a 27-year veteran of Metro there to pick up an 18-year award for accident- and injury-free operation. "It's not easy to drive a bus," he said. "You always have to watch out for the other drivers, always someone trying to cut you off, trying to beat the bus." As for bicyclists, "They don't behave well at all! They're not afraid of the bus, don't care about it," he said.

Myers is in agreement. "Operators need to drive defensively, especially on



the Westside where the lanes are narrow, where there's lots of pedestrians and where there's a lot of traffic. Operators have to anticipate what the other drivers are going to do around the bus and constantly protect their area."

At West Hollywood Division 7, they do. There are 212 embroidered baseball caps to prove it.

*Photos: Gayle Anderson*

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**The big picture:** Metro will undertake \$636 million in new programs in FY10, funded largely with federal stimulus funds and the new Measure R transit sales tax that will be collected starting July 1. *Photo by Gary Leonard*

## Board Adopts FY10 Budget

By MARC LITTMAN  
*DEO, Public Relations*

(May 28, 2009) The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors today adopted a \$3.9 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2009-10 that begins July 1, 2009.

The spending plan is half a billion dollars or just under 15 percent more than the current Metro budget. The increase is largely due to a spate of new highway and transit building projects such as construction of a 10-mile northbound carpool lane on the I-405 freeway from the 10 to 101 freeways. Altogether, Metro will undertake \$636 million in new programs in FY10, funded largely with federal stimulus funds and the new Measure R transit sales tax that will be collected starting July 1.

Among other major transportation advances in the coming fiscal year, Metro will begin operation of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension to East Los Angeles, purchase 219 compressed natural gas buses for Metro and its contract carriers (the purchase of larger buses will increase Metro's bus seat capacity 1 percent), continue construction of the Expo light rail line from downtown Los Angeles to Culver City, begin construction of a four mile extension of the popular Metro Orange Line busway from Canoga Park to Chatsworth and advance numerous planning studies for new transit projects throughout Los Angeles County.

As mandated by Measure R, there will be no general Metro fare increase in FY10, and fares for seniors, students, the disabled and Medicare recipients

will stay at current levels for five years. The new transit sales tax that begins July 1 will keep Metro fares low, however, the Metro Board must still grapple with higher operating costs and cuts in other revenue.

California lawmakers have completely eliminated state transit assistance, which, in recent years has provided Metro with about \$100 million annually in operating dollars. Local Props. A & C transit sales tax revenue also is projected to decline five percent over the current fiscal year due to the recession. In addition, Metro is negotiating new contracts this spring with its major labor unions representing operators, maintenance employees and clerks.

Despite the drop in revenue, Metro will not raise fares or consider major service reductions. However, Metro has cut expenses by more than \$130 million. It also will dip into reserves to balance the FY10 budget.



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Did you run the L.A. Marathon? Send your bragging rights to myMetro!



(May 28, 2009) Congratulations on running the L.A. Marathon XXIV. Help us celebrate your great achievement by sending a photo from the race, if you have one, and a couple of stats: 1) Is this your first L.A. Marathon? Or, if not, how many have you completed? 2) What was your time? 3) What did you do to train for this race? 4) How was it out there? Did you run with a group from Metro but didn't take a photo? Bring your medals to work for a group photo and send it to us. Even better, send us one of the Race Day photos provided on the L.A. Marathon site.

- Runners, click here to send an e-mail  
[I ran the L.A. Marathon](#)

What? You didn't run it but you biked it? Ok - send a photo, your time and tell us how much fun *that* was! You got a medal, right? Now you can show it off. Did you run with a group from Metro but didn't take a photo? Bring your medals to work for a group photo and send it to us.

- Bikers, click here to send an e-mail  
[I biked the L.A. Marathon](#)

We'll publish the collection of Marathon stories and photos in a special report.




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## Metro Joins Caltrans Academy Students on Transportation Expedition

By TAWNY GESTUVO  
*Contributing Writer*

(May 28, 2009) Learning by touring and exploring could have been the theme for this year's Transportation Field Academy.

In partnership with the Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning, Office of Professional Development (OPD), Metro's Organizational Development and Training Department (OD&T) helped host Caltrans District 7's (Los Angeles) third annual Transportation Field Academy April 26 through May 1.

The group toured new urban developments, transportation systems, and communities in Los Angeles. The students also observed aeronautics, goods movement, and rail operations, as well as transportation planning and transportation systems information activities.

The five day academy was moderated by Office Chief of Caltrans OPD, Chris Hatfield and the OPD team, Lonora Graves and Lisa Franco-Gutierrez, who provided high energy days filled with planning oriented activities for transportation planners and engineers from Caltrans and other partner agencies.

## Metro plays a major role

Until three years ago, the field academy was conducted for the most part at Caltrans headquarters in Sacramento, California. Then Leann Williams and Melanie Bradford-Jefferson from Caltrans District 7 and Metro's Director of Organizational Development & Training Marion Jane Colston made it possible for Metro to play a major role in the intense, week-long training regimen.

"We have the field academy in order to reach out to more of Caltrans



Field Academy Students wait for a bus to LAX after having lunch at Metro Headquarters and seeing a presentation on the Metro Orange Line by Transportation Planning Manager Martha Butler.

planners and expose them to other statewide projects,” said Bradford-Jefferson, an associate transportation planner at Caltrans.

“They wanted to see Metro’s transit-oriented developments here in Los Angeles, I told them, tell me what you need and I’ll work with you,” Colston said.



Students got a sneak peek at the Solair Western, a transit oriented development which is nearing completion here.



As part of their tour, students cruised through the LAX hangars and cargo terminals.



for attendees to discuss and apply concepts first hand.

The group was encouraged to see how various grants and projects have been implemented as a result of their efforts.

With a few segments dedicated to Metro’s operations and joint ventures, attendees were able to sneak a peek inside the Wilshire and Western transit oriented development (TOD) Solair Wilshire. The 22-story tower is a Metro-KOAR transit-oriented joint development project designed to reduce automobile use by centralizing residences and retail businesses in close proximity to Metro transit lines.

**Structure and planning**

Colston reflected on a field academy she attended in Emeryville, Calif., and noticed the difference of Bay Area TODs to those in Los Angeles.

Before Metro became actively involved in providing the academy with presenters she and a few members of her staff attended a training session to see exactly how their curriculum was being structured.

Bradford-Jefferson said that each academy is designed to highlight and give planners insight on what is special to each district.

With cooperation from multiple local agencies and professionals in the private sector, the academy provided an open forum

Al Dias, a Caltrans District 6 (Fresno) transportation planner, acknowledged the interdependence of various modes of transportation to move both people and goods.

“The transportation system is seamless,” he said. “We need our local partners to meet the public needs. We (all inclusive) cannot build ourselves out of congestion, as density levels increase, mass transit must be developed.”

- Tawny Gestuvo is an Intern in Real Estate Administration.