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- [Hee-Haw!](#) Metro South Bay to host the 34th annual Bus Rodeo
- [Two Taggers](#) Facing Vandalism Charges for Defacing Metro, Caltrans Property

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The grand opening of Solair, a transit-oriented mixed-use development at the Metro Purple Line's Wilshire/Western station, is a major addition to Metro's Joint Development Program expanding map.

KOAR, Metro Celebrate Grand Opening of Solair 22-Story Transit-oriented Development at Wilshire / Western Metro Purple Line Station

- Transit-Oriented Development Milestone: \$160 million mixed-use joint development project is the first of its kind in Koreatown / Wilshire Center

(June 2, 2009) KOAR Wilshire Western, LLC and Metro announced the completion of a major new joint development project at the Metro Purple Line's Wilshire/Western station May 29, signifying a new day for truly urban, transit-centered living in Los Angeles. It is also a shining example of smart growth in a troubled local economy.

The \$160 million "Solair Wilshire" project features a 22-story, contemporary glass-walled building that contains 186 for-sale residential units and 40,000 square-foot retail plaza. The

project also includes a large Metro bus layover facility.

The 2.6-acre development is the second mixed-use project and the first high-rise development to be built for the Koreatown / Wilshire Center community along the Metro Purple Line. Due to its ideal location in a dense urban corridor and its direct connection to the subway and future subway extensions, the development is ideally suited to be commercially successful in an otherwise dire business climate.

“This development proves that where there is transit, there is business,” said Los Angeles City Mayor and Metro Board Chair Antonio Villaraigosa. “Solair Wilshire is the perfect example of my vision for creating a transit-oriented city that brings business and housing to Los Angeles.”

“Solair Wilshire is the realization of new urban, transit-based development projects that Metro has long envisioned for the communities along Metro transit lines,” said Metro CEO Art Leahy. “These developments are world-class, and they are reshaping urban life near transit in Los Angeles County.”

During construction, the project generated more than 200 construction-related jobs. The development is anticipated to spur ridership on both the Metro



CEO Art Leahy speaks at grand opening ceremonies for high-rise development on Wilshire Blvd. Solair Wilshire was designed by the Archeon Group, a Los Angeles-based architecture firm. The development’s interior common areas were designed by Super Potato, an internationally acclaimed interior design group from Tokyo, Japan. The contemporary design makes extensive use of wood, stone and water, and features a seventh floor Sky Deck with pool, spa, fitness room, barbeque areas, furnished cabanas and a kitchen-equipped function room.

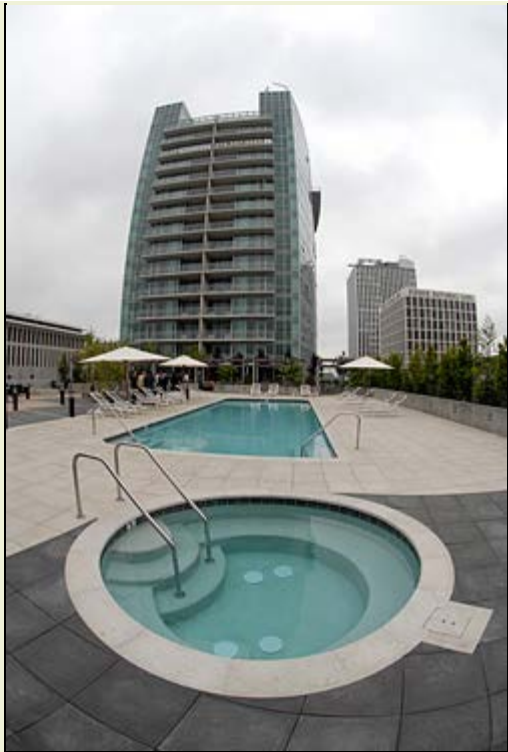


The building features floor-to-ceiling glass windows, oversized terraces on most units and structured parking. The residential tower houses 168 two- and three-bedroom units, six loft style units and 12 penthouses. Sizes range from 1,330 to 2,666 square feet. Unit interiors will feature designer kitchens, hardwood flooring, walk-in closets, oversized master bathrooms and centralized telephone, data and cable service.

Purple Line and local bus lines.

The joint development was made possible through an exchange of real property interests and an exclusive ground lease agreement in 2006. The ground lease will provide Metro with monthly rental income throughout its term.

Solair Wilshire is the latest development within Metro's Joint Development Program, which seeks to provide appropriate transit-oriented development at and adjacent to transit stations and corridors. The program's goal is to reduce auto use and congestion through transit-linked development. To date Metro has been involved in billions of dollars in transit-oriented, joint development projects throughout Los Angeles County. Other transit-oriented, joint development projects in the area that have been completed, are now planned or are under construction, include the projects at the Metro Red Line's Wilshire/Vermont, Westlake/MacArthur Park and Hollywood/Vine stations.



At street level, Solair is a new destination on Wilshire with a 40,000 square-foot specialty retail plaza that is almost completely leased. Spanning two stories along Western Boulevard between Wilshire Boulevard and 6th Street, businesses were uniquely attracted by high consumer traffic provided from the immediate adjacency to Metro's transportation network at the Wilshire/Western Metro Purple Line Station.

--from Dave Sotero, Sr. Communications Officer

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A/C tech Albert Liang inspects the cooling towers that line the helicopter pad on the roof of Metro Headquarters. Water for Metro's 1700-ton air conditioning unit is maintained at 50 degrees to keep the unit working properly. *Photos: Gayle Anderson*

Metro Employees Asked to Help Curb the Flow to Conserve Water in LA County

- Air conditioning takes biggest pull of water at Metro Headquarters

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

A stringent water conservation effort was officially launched June 1 in Los Angeles County, and Metro's building and facility leaders will be among the first working hard to comply.

As part of the measure, all county residents including government and businesses, are being asked to help the county reduce water consumption by 15 percent.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) measure means lawn sprinklers will be turned on only on Monday and Thursday. Violators should expect to face hefty rate increases if they fail to comply.



When it gets extremely hot or humid, the massive air conditioning system that cools Metro Headquarters lets off a little steam through the cooling towers on the roof.

Watch your thermostat

This is the third year Southern California has faced a water shortage, and, as summer temperatures climb, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Robert Skarseth, who is responsible for overseeing Metro Headquarters, wants to remind Metro employees that room temperature is directly related to water use.

The lower the thermostat is set to cool down a room, he said, the greater the amount of water necessary to run through the unit coils to complete the process.

“We’re trying to get our air conditioning in line where we could keep it at a constant temperature to use less water,” said Skarseth.

Ideally, thermostat settings should be set between 72 to 75 degrees, but somebody in management would have to determine that as being Metro’s official building standard to make it policy, he said, adding his department gets several requests each day to make adjustments.



A/C Tech Lead Henry Chu explains that the air conditioning system that regulates Metro Headquarters temperatures is water-cooled.

A/C Tech Lead Henry Chu explains that the air conditioning system at Metro Headquarters is heavily dependent on water since it is water cooled. The 1700-ton system is like a mammoth radiator that uses approximately 1,000 gallons of water on a typical warm day, but when demand is high, that could increase to 1,500 gallons or as much as 2,000 gallons.

Metro’s system includes a configuration of chiller units situated on a floor near the top of the building which funnel water

through large pipes that lead to several cooling towers on the roof. When it gets extremely hot or humid, steam can be seen from the roof of the Metro Headquarters building, Chu explains. "The greater the demand for cooling, the greater the water consumption," he said.

Skarseth says a little patience can go a long way, he notes. Sometimes when the sun shines on people on the west side of the building, they immediately think it should be colder in the room, he says. "Some people like it really, really cold in their office," he said. Other times, when the skies are overcast, employees call about being too cold, when the temperature really isn't any different than it was the previous day.

"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"

Metro's Metro Headquarters water and sewer bill for March alone amounted to more than \$8,000, and it remains to be seen how that will be impacted by the DWP's water conservation measure.

One of the greater challenges will be maintaining the 109 miles of irrigation lines throughout Metro's transitway, including those within the 77 acres of landscaping on the Orange Line. Director of Facilities Maintenance Brady Branstetter said his department fully supports Metro's sustainability policy of "reduce, reuse and recycle."

As it stands, his department has alerted employees and contractors about the DWP measure and will monitor water use and determine what measures should be made periodically to keep water use and costs down.

One proposal is to install rain sensors to shut down the irrigation or sprinkler systems when it rains, to conserve water. "That's an opportunity for automating a requirement of the ordinance," Branstetter said.

Another, involves obtaining a source of recycled water for irrigation that did not exist in 2005 when the Orange Line opened. When the Orange Line was built, Metro installed purple piping, designating it to be used with recycled water, but it has yet to identify a sufficient source of recycled water. "The Agency was once again ahead of the curve on an environmental issue," Branstetter said.



Metro's 1700-ton air conditioning unit includes a configuration of chiller units situated on a floor near the top of the building which funnel water through large pipes that lead to several cooling towers on the roof.



Metro has been using recycled water to wash buses and vehicles for about 10 years, said Director of Capital Project Facilities Tim Lindholm.



Metro officials have decided that daily bus washing is not necessary, and, instead, buses will be washed every other day to save the agency more than \$250,000 in DWP charges annually. In addition, Metro is installing waterless urinals, low flow toilets and automatic faucets throughout its facilities.

“Wherever we can, we try to put in new technology,” Lindholm said. Waterless urinals, like the ones installed at Division 9 Transportation and Sector offices, are expected to save as much as 40,000 gallons of water per year per unit.

Sweep and clean

The Metro Board also adopted a policy to construct any new building that is 10,000 square feet or greater to be LEED certified, requiring lower water and energy consumption.



Steven Noonan of ProLogis, a Metro consultant responsible for maintaining Metro Headquarters building grounds and parking, said his department’s water conservation plan began a year ago when the DWP conducted an audit which produced a few water saving changes. For example, instead of washing down asphalt and pavement with hoses, employees are now using water-efficient brooms to clean and keep dust away.



Metro will also be receiving an \$11,000 grant from the DWP to improve the water irrigation systems around Metro buildings and grounds.

“We’re going to go by the letter of the law,” Noonan said.



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Metro Orange Line Extension Gets Under Way in June



Construction of the proposed Metro Orange Line Chatsworth Station, pictured in rendering above, will begin in a north parking lot at the Chatsworth Metrolink/Amtrak Station, below. Photo shows current view from the existing parking lot looking northwest.



- Metro will officially break ground June 24 on the first construction project expedited through Measure R -- the extension of the Metro Orange Line from Canoga Park to Chatsworth in the San Fernando Valley. The four-mile addition to the Metro Orange Line will connect the transitway with the Southern California inter-urban rail system.

(June 4, 2009) Construction is scheduled to begin June 24 on the Metro Orange Line Extension – a four-mile long, north-south bus corridor that will connect Metro’s Canoga Park and Ride Station with the Metrolink Station in Chatsworth.

The first shovel will hit the ground as construction begins on a north parking lot at the Chatsworth Metrolink/Amtrak Station, marking the first phase of construction on a four-mile addition to the Metro Orange Line right-of-way to connect with the Southern California inter-urban rail system. Completion of this parking lot is required before the south parking lot is modified to ensure that parking is continuously available for Metrolink/Amtrak patrons during construction of the Metro Orange Line Extension. Later construction work on the alignment will commence in late 2009/early 2010.

The new busway is expected to open in the summer of 2012. Ninety day notices have been sent to existing tenants to clear the right-of-way so that construction can begin, said Project Manager Hitesh Patel.

Once completed, the extension “will offer Metro passengers greater access

to more of the Valley and will integrate the latest technologies and environmentally sound systems," Patel said.

Work on the Metro Orange Line Extension will include a parallel off-street pedestrian/bicycle pathway; stations at Sherman Way, Roscoe Boulevard, Nordhoff Street and at the Chatsworth Metrolink Station; as well as extensive landscaping.

Approximately 200 parking spaces will be provided at the Sherman Way Station and the Chatsworth Metrolink Station will have its parking capacity expanded from 480 to 600-plus spaces.

The Metro Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and approved a project budget of \$215.6 million in January. This is the first project listed in the Measure R program.

"We mobilized our consultants in anticipation of board approval in January and have been working long hours over the last several months to accelerate the project. We've completed the final design of the north parking lot at Chatsworth and plan to award the construction contract in early June," Patel said.

Opened in 2005, the Orange Line busway route and its adjacent eight miles of bike path and pedestrian walkway, runs east and west along the old Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way connecting the trendy NoHo Arts District with major destinations in the heart of the San Fernando Valley. A new station and park and ride lot At Canoga Avenue was opened in late 2006.

--from Michael D. White and Dave Sotero

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Family and friends attend graduation ceremony for kindergarten and pre-school students of Gateway Child Care Center held at Patsaouras Plaza June 4.

Little Graduates Get Diplomas from Gateway Child Care Center

- Reminder: Are you or yours graduating in 2009? [Get on the List](#)

By LAURA KLOTH
Staff Writer

(June 4, 2009) Twenty pre-kindergarten and 16 kindergarten students were honored today at a joyful outdoor graduation ceremony for graduates of the Gateway Child Care Center.

Complete with Pomp and Circumstance playing in the background, the children converged at Patsaouras Plaza wearing tiny blue caps and gowns draped with golden sashes to take their seats at the event.

"It has been a tremendous year for you guys. You guys have gotten a new director, weathered the flood, and we seem to have had a year that has flown by," said Center Director Kimberly Tang.



Starting young: Above, the kindergarten class of 2009. Below, the pre-schoolers.



Tang, who assumed her post this year, recalled the flood caused by a burst water pipe that closed the center for repairs in March, and prompted teachers to relocate classrooms to other areas of the building.

"Getting to know all of your children has truly been a gift," Tang told parents and friends. "As I sat in our makeshift classrooms during the flood and watched your children and my own making new friends, laughing during circle time with Teacher Maggie, making up songs with Teacher Ja'Neice, reading each other's stories, traveling to the bathroom for the umpteenth time with Teacher Jennifer, and sharing covers with their neighbors... I realized this is a complete testament to the development of our children," she said, thanking the children for dealing with so much change.

"We've all become a family especially those of you who have been here for years," Tang said.

Graduate Madison Flores, who will attend first grade at a new school, first attended the center when she was three months old. Her mother, Metro Audit Support Manager Anne Flores, was visibly elated to see Madison taking her big step, and was all smiles as she watched her recite a "Vote of Thanks" speech during the ceremony.



Graduate Madison with proud mother, Anne Flores, an audit support manager at Metro.

"It's the commute that we're going to miss because we take the train together in the morning," said Flores. "I'm going to have a harder time adjusting than she is, I think."

Graduates Alex Varela and Hayden Asiano led the Pledge of Allegiance. Afterward the brief program, all of the children sang and recited a poem.

Teachers Mariano Blanco, Ja'Neice Spann, Maggie Enriquez and Jennifer Silva guided the children as they each received their diploma and a class ring, and lunch was served.



Pre-schoolers brace for a torrent of flashing cameras as paparazzi and video-toting parents angle for the money shot.

- Photos by
Gayle Anderson

Reminder: Are you or yours graduating in 2009? [Get on the List](#). myMetro is still collecting names for the Class of 2009 list of graduates.

If you have a high school or college graduate you would like to honor, please send [forms](#) to Laura Kloth at mail stop 99-19-8 or fax to 213-922-2704 no later than June 12.

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OBITUARIES

Ernest "Ernie" Acevedo, Division 9 Bus Operator

- Services: Visitation will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, June 5, at the Guerra/Gutierrez Mortuary, 5245 E. Pomona Blvd., Los Angeles. The funeral is planned for 11 a.m. Saturday, June 6, at the Evergreen Cemetery, 204 N. Evergreen Ave., in East Los Angeles.

(June 4, 2009) Div. 9 Bus Operator Ernest "Ernie" Acevedo has died at age 62.

Mr. Acevedo began his Metro career as a contracted bus operator on Dec. 26, 1999, and was promoted to part-time bus operator on Dec. 17, 2000. He became a full-time bus operator on Feb. 29, 2004.

Mr. Acevedo was born on Dec. 24, 1946, in Los Angeles and lived in the city until his death on May 30.

Division 9 Transportation Manager Jon Hillmer said Mr. Acevedo "was a quiet and courteous gentleman who always dressed exceeding well." He was a "gentleman who was kind and soft-spoken," Hillmer said.

Mr. Acevedo is survived by his three children, a girl and two boys.

Visitation will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, June 5 at the Guerra/Gutierrez Mortuary, 5245 E. Pomona Blvd., Los Angeles. The funeral is planned for 11 a.m. Saturday, June 6, at the Evergreen Cemetery, 204 N. Evergreen Ave., in East Los Angeles.



Ernest Acevedo



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Championship Bus Team takes victory lap at Metro Headquarters



So noted: Introducing the team members to the Board of Directors and the entire room, CEO Art Leahy seem pleased that not only did the Metro team emerge as the champions of the APTA International Bus Rodeo competition, they also edged out the tough competitors from Orange County. "I'm pleased to announce that the Metro team ranked higher than OCTA," said CEO Leahy. From left: CEO Art Leahy, Top Operator Juan Navarro, Master Mechanics and International Champions for the second time - Frank Forde, Rommel Vargas, and Andrew Warren - and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

(June 9, 2009) In the APTA International winner's circle for the second time in three years, the championship Metro Bus team was awarded the coveted Grand Champion Award in Seattle May 5. 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.

In this article, *myMetro* catches up with the 2009 APTA Internationals Grand Champions on their way from a rousing reception at the Metro Board Meeting May 28 to a photo session on the balcony at Metro Headquarters with the Creative Services photographers. Look for their smiling championship faces on bus cards, which will be installed on Metro Buses for six months starting in July.



Team Metro: From left, Sr. Equipment Maintenance Manager Steve Mullaly, North Los Angeles Division 3 Transportation Manager Dan Frawley, Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers, Mechanics Andrew Warren, Rommel Vargas, Frank Forde, Operator Juan Navarro, South Bay GM Dana Coffey, Operations Asst. Instruction Manager Frank Cecere, San Fernando Valley GM Richard Hunt, Arthur Winston Division Maintenance Manager Alex DiNuzzo, UTU Vice Local Chairperson for Local 1607 Ernie Martinez, and Arthur Winston Division Transportation Manager Curley Little.
Photos by Luis Inzunza

Metro Bus Operator: It's the first international competition for 10-year Metro operator, who ranked 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.

It was the first time in International Competition for North Los Angeles Division 3 Operator Juan Navarro. He returned home a champion and a media draw: With his smiling face peering through a shiny clean Metro Bus window on the pages of La Opinion, he was featured in a major article in the May 17 edition. [Read article](#) (PDF)

Top Operator Juan Navarro: It was fun! I drove a regular 40-ft bus that was just a little different from the ones I'm used to. Once I went around and practiced and got my adjustments going, I took it from there. It's like driving out in the street but everything's tight and on the clock.

Master Mechanics: The mechanics team from Arthur Winston Division 5 has won the Metro Roadeo five times: [2003](#), [2005](#), [2006](#), [2007](#) and [2008](#). They won intermittent [Southern California Regional Roadeo](#) twice. They are have won the Grand Championship title at the APTA Internationals twice, in [2007](#) and [2009](#).

Mechanic Andrew Warren: It takes hard work. Dedication. Lots of practice and study study. Even if you think you know everything, you still need to go over the facts. Keep everything fresh. You just can't know enough because there is no way of knowing what you're going to see. We don't train all year long but we work all year long, so that helps. It's what we do for a living.

Mechanic Frank Forde: It's a commitment to what we wanted to achieve. The goal was to win the (Metro) Roadeo and once we started doing that, we said we'd like to try and win the Nationals and we did! It's been an honor and privilege to be able to attend it and achieve what we did. The hard work paid off. It's a very enlightening experience. We meet other mechanics from around the nation, get to discuss different problems they may see with different coaches. Information changes hands, and you get some real good friends out of the opportunity to attend the Roadeo. It's also a great morale booster for mechanics!

Mechanic Rommel Vargas: Competition is just a little bit more intense. We've been the

defending champs for a while, so we have to work extra hard. We keep on top of all the new technology and keep track of the old one. When we compete, we kick it all up in high gear, go over everything that we go through all year and bring it all together at the event.

Mechanic Andrew Warren: It's not just like going to work every day. All the events are timed – even though we know what we're doing, we have to be able to do it quickly. The process has to be faster, trouble-shooting skills have to be that much sharper. We don't have a lot of time to waste trying to figure out what the problem is – got to have something in mind we want to check and go for that. The clock is always ticking.

The Coaches: Instructors Frank Cecere and Steve Mullaly take the team through the operations and mechanic hoops every year.

Operations Asst. Instruction Manager Frank Cecere: Operator Juan Navarro was amazing – he was able to mentally work the track prior to actually driving it. He visualized driving the whole course, all 11 events.

Sr. Equipment Maintenance Manager Steve Mullaly: It's fantastic for L.A. Metro to be the grand champions twice in three years. Metro is known as the team to beat!

Division managers play a significant role in the development of a championship team.

Arthur Winston Division Maintenance Manager Alex DiNuzzo: They're talented. They have the skills. All three are Master Mechanics. They practice, they're dedicated, they're hungry for it. Master Mechanic is the highest level mechanic that Metro has. They have to go through an eight-hour examination, hands on, written test, everything. They have to have the skills and training to even qualify to take that test. They're qualified to work on any bus system. Like they said at APTA when they announced the winner: The Best of the Best.

North Los Angeles Division 3 Transportation Manager Dan Frawley: As of June 1, Juan Navarro is now officially a 10-year veteran of Metro. He's on Line 751 every working day. It's his first international competition, finishing second place among all the bus operators at the event. It is also the best finish of all the Metro Bus operators in any of the competitions. The best thing about Juan Navarro is his personality. I call him a kid – he's just the best kid I know! He got along really well with the maintenance team and we had fun. (Frawley treated baseball fan Navarro to a Mariners baseball game.) In the Metro Roadeos, Navarro took two second-place finishes, one third-place finish, finished fifth twice and finished sixth once. He's always getting better. Now he's on the top and that's where he's going to stay.

--from Gayle Anderson


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OBITUARIES

Kevin Murray, Transit Operations Supervisor Dies After Motorcycle Accident

- Services: Viewing will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 12, at McKay's Family Mortuary, 16918 Baseline Ave, Fontana, CA 92336. The funeral is planned for 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 13, at Cross Word Christian Church, 14950 Riverside Dr. in Riverside, CA 92518.
- UPDATE:** Transportation to Mr. Murray's funeral may be provided from Patsaouras Plaza Saturday morning depending on the number of employees wishing to attend. For more information, please contact or e-mail [Sheila Badji](#) at (562) 658-0210.

(June 9, 2009) Upon learning about his June 7 death, Metro employees remembered Transit Operations Supervisor Kevin Murray as a respected employee with a "thousand watt smile."

Mr. Murray, 52, died after being hospitalized for injuries sustained in a May 22 motorcycle accident, said Gateway Cities Service Sector Vehicle Operations Assistant Manager Dan Dryden.

Mr. Murray's family was at his side when he died. He is survived by his wife Artlette, two daughters, and his mother and father.

Born on July 14, 1956, Mr. Murray, a resident of Fontana, began his Metro career as a full-time bus operator at Division 1 in August, 1983 and was promoted to transit operations supervisor in September 2006.

"Kevin got along well with all his peers and had even been elected as a union representative to assist his fellow employees," said Dryden. "One of his fellow co-workers still had a three-week old cell phone message from Kevin that said, 'This is Kevin. Give me a call.' We played it a few times. It was like having him here again even just for a moment. He's already missed by everyone."

Transit Operations Supervisor Doris Brown remembered Mr. Murray as "Big Dog" because "he had a big heart, and he was a man of many attributes who didn't mind sharing his knowledge."

Brown said Mr. Murray was a family man who loved his wife and two daughters, and recently went home to Chicago on what he described as 'a vacation of a lifetime.' "Kevin loved life and lived each day to the fullest. He will surely be missed," she said.



Kevin Murray

Transit Operations Supervisor Christine Nolan said Mr. Murray was “a respected co-worker. Kevin was my true MTA brother. He had faith in me and he believed in me and I will miss him greatly.”

“You always knew Kevin was in the building by his booming voice and thousand watt smile,” said Executive Secretary Sheila Badji. “No matter how bad your day was going, just being around him and his smile, for even a few minutes, would make you smile too.”

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OBITUARIES

Larry D. Woods, Central Maintenance Mechanic Dies Following Illness

Private services were held in May for Larry D. Woods, a Mechanic A working in Central Maintenance Small Units Shop.

Mr. Woods died May 1 following an illness, said Equipment Maintenance Manager Amy Hughes.

Mr. Woods, 53, joined Metro as a Mechanic C in July 1992, and was promoted to Mechanic B one year later, said Employee Records and Verification Specialist Claudia Kwon.

He was promoted to Mechanic A in August 1994 and went on disability earlier this year.

"He was an outstanding mechanic who was always willing to share his knowledge and teach other mechanics," Hughes said.

"I always enjoyed talking to Larry because he had a positive attitude and had good constructive feedback whether it was about work in the shop, or even just the food in the cafeteria," said Hughes. "When he talked about his son, I could tell he had a very big heart. He cared a lot about his family, his co-workers and his work. We will miss him."

Born in Pasadena on Sept. 2, 1955, Mr. Woods was living in Covina and is survived by his wife, Lorraine, and a son.



Larry Woods



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Caltrans District Director and Metro Board Member Doug Failing leads media briefing on status of congestion reduction demonstration project. Channels 2/9, 4, 7, 11/13, KNX/KFWB radio, the Los Angeles Times, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Pasadena Star News, Whittier Daily News-LA Opinion and the Chinese Daily News attended. From left, Directors John Fasana, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Doug Failing, Rita Robinson, Congestion Reduction Demo Initiative Executive Officer Stephanie Wiggins, and Caltrans Deputy District Director Frank Quon.

Photo by Luis Inzunza

Metro, Caltrans update media on Congestion Reduction Demonstration Project

- Public Hearings scheduled on proposed tolling prices for Freeway ExpressLanes

By RICK JAGER

(June 9, 2009) Metro and Caltrans officials held a media briefing Friday, June 5, on the status of the one-year demonstration program that will convert existing carpool lanes on the I-10 (El Monte Busway) and the I-110 (Harbor Freeway Transitway) freeways to toll lanes.

With a video traffic screen as a backdrop, officials outlined the program and announced a series of public hearings scheduled in June to gather public input on a range of tolling pricing proposals.

No toll for those who rideshare

Present day carpoolers, vanpoolers and public transit users will not be charged a toll to use the lanes.

Solo drivers, who currently are not allowed to use the lanes, will be allowed to use the ExpressLanes by paying a toll. No tolls would be charged in mixed-flow traffic lanes.

Funding for this demonstration project is being provided by a special \$210

million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. A majority of the funding will be used to enhance public transit options along the two corridors by providing an additional 57 transit buses and to increase the number of vanpool and carpool participants.

Increase capacity for crowded freeways

The purpose of the demonstration is to squeeze more capacity out of crowded freeways in a region where building new freeways is almost impossible because land is not available and there is a lack of funding for new construction.

The project will provide the opportunity for individuals to choose better transportation alternatives and provides a choice for solo drivers to shift to more convenient express transit options that will serve the corridor route.

A presentation on the demonstration project as well as various toll pricing scenarios, goals and performance measures will be presented to the public at the hearings. Proposed tolls could range from 25 cents to \$1.40 a mile for solo drivers using the ExpressLanes.

Toll-pricing variables

The toll price will be variable depending on traffic flow. The goal is to ensure vehicles in the ExpressLanes travel between 45 and 50 miles per hour. It would be cheaper to access the ExpressLanes during non-peak hours, or opt for public transit, carpools and vanpools and pay no tolls.

Monies generated by the tolls will be used to pay for the operation of the tolling system as well as be reinvested back into the corridors served by improving public transportation options.

Metro will hold a series of community public hearings this month to gather public input on a range of tolling pricing proposals that would be implemented in December 2010 as part of the agency's Congestion Reduction Demonstration Project (ExpressLanes) on portions of the I-10 and I-110 freeways.

Following the public hearings, a staff recommendation on toll pricing will be made to Metro's Board of Directors for their consideration at their July 23, 2009 meeting.

Schedule of public hearings

The following are the dates and locations of upcoming public hearings on toll pricing:

- Saturday, June 13, 2009, 10 a.m. – Noon, Metro Board Room 3rd Fl., One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles,
- Monday, June 15, 2009, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Carson Community Center, Adult Activity Room, 801 E. Carson St., Carson
- Wednesday, June 17, 2009, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Metro San Gabriel Valley Service Sector, Council Chambers, 3449 Santa Anita Ave. 3rd Fl., El Monte
- Saturday, June 20, 2009, 10 a.m. – Noon, West Covina Civic Center, Community Room, 1444 W. Garvey Ave., West Covina
- Monday, June 22, 2009, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Civic Center Library,

Meeting Room, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance

Those unable to attend the public hearings can submit written testimony to Stephanie Wiggins, Metro Executive Officer, One Gateway Plaza – Mail Stop 99-25-5, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or fax their comments to (213) 922-7464. Additional information is also available at www.metro.net/expresslanes.

All written comments need to be submitted no later than July 14, 2009.

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Sheriff's Deputy Meredith Lawson, backed by canine unit Deputy Rich Faulk and Canine Deputy Debra, screen customers at Union Station entrance to Metro Red and Purple Line. Fare inspectors, lined up at left, check customers for fare upon exiting the system.

L.A. Sheriff's Unit Works to Deter Terrorists on Metro

- Package, Purse, Luggage Screenings Lead to Drug Arrests, Fare Evasion Tickets

By LAURA KLOTH
Staff Writer

With a goal to bolster security on Metro's trains and buses, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department anti-terrorist team has been conducting random screenings of luggage, purses and backpacks throughout Metro's bus line and rail network since spring.

And, so far, reaction from patrons has been mostly positive, said Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sgt. Jeffrey S. Ivask.

The Special Operations Threat Interdiction Unit (TIU) began conducting random screenings about a year ago on Metrolink, and continued on the Red Line in March, Ivask said.

In addition to its own Transit Security Officers, Metro contracts with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department to patrol Union Station, its buses and trains and to protect passengers.

Since then, the 8-person anti-terrorism team, with the assistance of LASD Explosive Detection Canine Teams, has been screening items on the Metro Red, Blue, and Orange lines conducting as many as three, two-hour operations a day.

"The concept is that through this unpredictable, randomized deterrent, we're going to deter terrorism," said Ivask. "We're looking for obvious explosives and/or weapons."

Voluntary consent

A typical Mobile Search and Screening Team (MSST) operation involves deputies setting up a checkpoint at a bus or train station which includes a large sign announcing to patrons that once they enter the station, they are subject to screening by Sheriff's personnel.

Since the screenings are voluntary, a rider can simply walk away before walking into the station. However, once he enters, a refusal to be screened means he won't be allowed to ride the train or bus at that particular time, notes Ivask.

"If someone doesn't want to be subject to that, they're more than welcome to leave," he said.

Just who is screened is determined by the random criterion chosen that day.

The screenings do not include body pat downs, or searches. During the screenings, deputies or fare inspectors also check for fare evaders.

The positive pay-off

During a recent Red Line screening, 419 passengers passed through the checkpoint with 72 selected for screening. Deputies did not locate any explosives or weapons, but did issue 30 citations for fare evasion.

Since the operation began, screenings have also resulted in several narcotics arrests of passengers carrying marijuana, illegal mushrooms, and methamphetamine. In one curious case, deputies even arrested a police impersonator who carried a fake ID, replica handgun, handcuffs and phony citations.



A large sign announces a checkpoint ahead.



Since the screenings are voluntary, a rider can simply walk away before walking into the station. However, once he or she enters, a refusal to be screened means they won't be allowed to ride the train or bus at that particular time.

"Generally, I think we've had more positive comments from people coming

through than negative," Ivask said.

"There is a realized threat. It's been upheld in the federal court of appeals that this does not violate the Fourth Amendment. The federal court has already ruled on that because it's random. We're not singling people out. We're not racial profiling," he added in response to the accusation of one rider who asserted that the Sheriff's were screening riders on the basis of race.

"It's about time. Good Job. I'd like to see more of this," said one rider, while another woman, who had undergone two screenings already, stated, "This delay is a small price to pay for a secure system."

Since 9/11 and the 2004 train bombings in Madrid and London, U.S. law enforcement officials have seen a marked increase in the federal funding for such operations.

The Metro screenings are funded by a \$2 million Transportation Security Administration (TSGP) grant awarded in 2007 to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Another \$1.1 million grant was awarded in 2008 to pay for additional personnel to facilitate more screening operations.

Ivask said with more funding available to hire additional personnel, the department hopes to increase screenings from the current three to six or eight every day.

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Feds Direct \$235 mil in stimulus funds to Metro projects



Federal stimulus funds will help pay for the replacement of all 20 transit power substations that power the Metro Blue Line trains and passenger stations. The \$50-million project, currently in bidding phase, is estimated to take about three years to complete. The substations convert 34,500 volts a/c power from utility companies to 750 volts d/c to power rail vehicles and passenger stations. Cost analysis favored replacing the existing substations, which are becoming obsolete and inefficient. Difficulty in obtaining spare parts makes a major overhaul impractical, said Michael Harris-Gifford, DEO, Wayside Systems & Rail Vehicle Acquisition.

The transit power substation at Imperial Station sits near the alignment. Below, the interior houses the power conversion system.



By GAYLE ANDERSON

(June 11, 2009) Metro will receive nearly \$235 million in federal stimulus funds to help pay for Metro projects in line for the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) consideration, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced Wednesday.

"By reinvesting in our nation's transit infrastructure, we are making our communities more livable, invigorating the local economy and putting America back to work," U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said in announcing the grants.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 includes \$8.4 billion for transit capital improvements.

When the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 was signed into law on Feb. 17, it set off a chain reaction across the nation as local

transportation agencies scrambled to identify shovel-ready projects that would meet ARRA criteria, which required, generally, that the projects were needed and ready to be implemented. The process was intensified by a very tight timeline: Complete grant applications must be submitted by July 1. The federal funding must be obligated by Sept. 1.

The organized effort of the planning staff paid off nicely. All the projects submitted were quickly approved.

Projects are designated for funding in three separate grants:

A \$225.1 million grant, submitted May 14, was approved in less than 30 days, a record-breaking turnaround. Approved for funding are:

- Upgrades for Metro Rail and Metro Bus facilities and equipment, including the replacement of approximately ninety 45-foot buses and fifty 32-foot buses, and the overhaul of 400 buses over five years old.
- The widening of staircases for emergency egress and improved pedestrian access at the 7th Street/Metro Center station
- The replacement of fiber optic equipment for the Metro Rail system
- The replacement of 18 aging Metro Blue Line traction power substations
- Modifications of CNG fueling facilities.

A \$8.2 million grant was submitted March 25 to:

- The replacement of two traction power substations and associated electrical support systems located along the Metro Blue Line right-of-way and Metro Blue Line Yard.

A \$1 million grant was submitted April 27 for:

- Enhancements such as public art, signage, and way-finding improvements for up to 19 bus stations or stops along the Harbor and El Monte transitways and local bus stops in downtown Los Angeles.

Two projects submitted in early June remain pending: A grant for \$66.7 million to advance a portion of the federal funds Metro is scheduled to receive in FY10 for the Metro Gold Line Extension to East Los Angeles and a \$6.7 million grant to fund the installation of 14 canopies to enhance pedestrian access to Metro Rail stations, said Gladys Lowe, director, countywide planning and development.



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OBITUARIES

Prakash (Peter) Bhamidi, West Valley Bus Operator, was a 20-year Metro veteran

- Services will begin at noon on Wednesday, June 17, at Chapel Hill in the Conejo Mountain Funeral and Memorial Park in Camarillo followed by traditional services from 1 to 3 p.m. The memorial park is located at 2052 Howard Road in Camarillo, California, 93012. (805) 482-1959 [Information/Directions](#)

(June 16, 2009) Services are scheduled for Prakash (Peter) Bhamidi, a veteran bus operator who spent all but one year of his nearly 20-year Metro career at West Valley Division 8.

Mr. Bhamidi died on Friday, June 12, following a massive heart attack a week earlier, said West Valley Transportation Manager Maria Reynolds.

"He was a wonderful employee," said Reynolds, "courteous, efficient, all the qualities of a true professional."

Known in the division as a family man, Mr. Bhamidi would bring his family to all of the Metro events, including the annual Division 8 Christmas party.

"Everybody loved him," said Reynolds. "He will be greatly missed."

Mr. Bhamidi, 53, joined Metro as a Bus Operator in August 1989. His first assignment was at Central City Division 1 before he joined West Valley Division 8 in September 1990, said Employee Records and Verification Specialist Dale Petres.

His last assignment was operating Line 154, which runs from Tujunga to Burbank.

Born in West Bengal, India, on Nov. 27, 1955, Mr. Bhamidi resided in the community of Winnetka. He is survived by his wife, Alpana, and two daughters, Anupama, 23, and Pratima, 18.

Services will begin at noon on Wednesday, June 17, at Chapel Hill in the Conejo Mountain Funeral and Memorial Park in Camarillo followed by traditional services from 1 to 3 p.m.

The memorial park is located at 2052 Howard Road in Camarillo, California, 93012. Information: (805) 482-1959 [Information/Directions](#)



**Prakash (Peter)
Bhamidi**



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New policy from ITS aims to streamline office computer standards and asset management

(June 16, 2009) It's a big transit system. Somebody's got to manage the technology assets that are streaming through the more than 3,000 network computers tucked away in offices and cubicles.



A new policy from Metro's ITS department is in effect to help employees standardize technology usage, centralize management and tracking of those assets, and to assign roles and responsibilities for the care of those assets.

The new policy, [IT Standards Compliance and Asset Management \(IT-7\)](#), was approved in March.

The policy provides for the lifecycle management of technology assets from procurement through disposition and applies to all departments that request, purchase, install or maintain technology assets, such as software, hardware and accessories.

Technology asset purchases must now be identified and reviewed by ITS prior to the purchase of the assets for compliance to Metro's standards. (For a complete list of IT standards, click [here](#).)

The policy "allows for decision-making power and asset performance within each department, and helps Metro reduce cost while increasing asset uptime that may be diminished by unplanned maintenance," said Elizabeth Bennett, ITS Chief Information Officer.

While helping to streamline the asset management process, Bennett predicts the policy will also increase productivity, facilitate regulatory compliance efforts and keep software licensing on track.

The Information Technology Services (ITS) department will begin enforcement of the policy provisions on July 1. Users may then submit an electronic form from the [ITS website](#) on *myMetro.net* to request an asset, obtain management approval of the asset request, and receive a receipt of the ITS approval to purchase.

Employees who are responsible for specifying, ordering or purchasing technology assets for their department are recommended to attend one of the upcoming information sessions.

IT-7 information sessions are planned for:

- Tuesday, June 23, 9:30 a.m., in the Imperial Conference Room, 12th floor, USG
- Wednesday, June 24, 9:30 a.m., in the Union Station Conference Room, 3rd floor, USG
- Wednesday, June 24, 1 p.m., in the Gateway Plaza Conference

Room, 3rd floor, USG

- Thursday, June 25, 2 p.m., in the Windsor Conference Room, 15th floor, USG
- Wednesday, July 1, 9:30 a.m., in the Windsor Conference Room, 15th floor, USG

For more information, see attached memo: Policy IT-7 – IT Standards Compliance and Asset Management ([PDF](#))

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Team Metro: The 2009 APTA Rail Rodeo champs are flanked by APTA and Metro Rail officials as they take the APTA stage in Chicago for the crowning achievement photo op. Pictured are, second from left, George R. Kennedy, Director, Rail Vehicle Acquisition and Maintenance Operations; Transportation Instructor Gerald Harper; Maintenance Instructor Gary Dewater; TOS Esther Pippins (in checkered dress); Top Operator Robert Rodriguez (center, back row); Maintainer Glen Abraham; Maintainer Ronnie Burt; Rail GM Mike Cannell; Maintainer Eric Czintos, and, far right, Duane Martin, Director, Rail Transportation Operations. *Photo courtesy of APTA.*

Metro Rail Train Team Wins International Rail Rodeo

- **Solid Gold:** Metro train operator and maintenance crew hold on to championship title for the second year in a row. They join the 2009 championship Metro bus team in the APTA International winner's circle.

(June 16, 2009) Making Metro the team to beat for the second year in a row, the Los Angeles Metro championship rail team won the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Rail Rodeo held June 13 at the Chicago Transit Authority yard in Skokie, Illinois.

The repeat victory makes 2009 a solid gold year for Metro, whose championship bus team won top honors in the APTA International Bus Rodeo in May, for the second time in three years.

Joining Metro's championship bus team in the APTA International winner's circle, the top-scoring Metro Rail train team won the Rail Transit Team Achievement Award at the 17th Annual American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Rail Rodeo.

The Los Angeles Metro team, racking up the highest rail operator and maintainer team combined score with 1,410 points, walked away with the championship title. Contestants from 11 rail systems around the nation competed for top honors.

Operator Robert Rodriguez and Rail Equipment Specialists Eric Czintos,

Ronnie Burt and Glen Abraham made up the winning team.

Troubleshooting and problem solving

The Maintainers Competition judges the ability to troubleshoot maintenance problems. The Metro team earned second place in this competition. The high-scoring team members were Eric Czintos, Ronnie Burt and Glen Abraham of Los Angeles Metro. The maintainer team was accompanied by coach and maintenance instructor Gary Dewater.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority took first place and Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon placed third.

It was a triumph for the returning champion maintainers, who won first place at the 2007 and 2008 APTA International competitions.

The top-scoring team scored the highest game points in the safety, HVAC (air conditioning repair) and written test events.

Rail GM Mike Cannell attributes the rail maintainer team's achievement to hard work and a great deal of experience. Veteran competitors Ronnie Burt and Eric Czintos have teamed up every year since 2003, when they took first place in the International Competition held in San Jose.

No stranger to competition

Championship competition is no stranger to Operator Robert Rodriguez.

The veteran competitor Robert Rodriguez came in a close second to the Sacramento Regional Transit District team. Rodriguez has competed at the international level on numerous occasions since 1997, according to coach and rail transportation instructor Esther Pippins.

Rodriguez and teammate Tu Phan took home the gold in two of the previous international competitions.

First place in the Operators Competition went to the Sacramento Regional Transit District team and the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (Tri-Met) team placed third.

The APTA International Rail Rodeo Competition is designed to encourage excellence and professionalism in rail transit operations.

--from Gayle Anderson



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Pre-tax benefit for transit subsidy program participants begins Friday

- Before-taxes payroll deduction means more savings for employee commuters

(June 16, 2009) Transit subsidy participants are now eligible for an additional tax break, reports Stefan Chasnov, DEO, Human Resources.

The Emergency Economic Recovery Act signed into law by President Obama, which aims to encourage the use of public transportation as part of the federal stimulus package, has temporarily increased the amount of pre-tax income that workers enrolled in employer-sponsored commuter benefits programs can use to pay for mass transit.

That amount will increase from \$120 per month to \$230 per month through December 31, 2010.

Metro will continue to contribute \$120 towards the transit subsidy tax free.

However, since the Emergency Economic Recovery Act allows for a total of \$230 to be set aside before taxes on a monthly basis, beginning with the deduction for the July fare media this Friday, participants in the transit subsidy program will now be able to withhold up to an additional \$110 before taxes per month to pay for participants' portion of the monthly fare media.

Any deduction in excess of \$110 will be deducted on an after-tax basis.

Employees that purchase a Metrolink pass at their city of residence will now get a transit check for the full amount of the pass. The difference between Metro's transit subsidy of \$120 and the actual cost of the pass will be deducted from their paycheck before taxes.

The cities that offer a discount are: Azusa, Diamond Bar, La Puente, La Verne, Walnut, West Covina and Pomona.

For more information, contact program coordinator Terree Holman, (213) 922-7118.

Do the math

Example #1: You receive a monthly Metrolink pass from Baldwin Park to Los Angeles Union Station. The total cost of your pass is \$155.75. The cost breaks down as follows:

- \$155.75 - \$120.00 (Metro's maximum monthly transit subsidy) = \$35.75

\$35.75 will be deducted on a pre-tax basis from your paycheck.

Example#2: You receive a monthly Metrolink pass from San Bernardino to Los Angeles Union Station. The total cost of your pass is \$300.50. Your cost breaks down as follows:

- \$300.50 - \$120.00 (Metro's maximum monthly transit subsidy) = \$180.50

\$110.00 of the \$180.50 will be deducted on a pre-tax basis from your paycheck; \$70.50 will be deducted from your paycheck on an after tax basis. Your total payroll deduction will be \$180.50 (\$110.00 + \$70.50).

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Los Angeles City Councilman and Metro Board Member José Huizar addresses safety issues at news conference Monday as Metro Gold Line train makes a grand entrance at the Indiana Station. *Photos by Juan Ocampo.*

Metro campaign to boost safety: Metro urges pedestrians, motorists to observe safety laws as officers begin issuing tickets along new Eastside rail line

By JOSÉ UBALDO
Media Relations

(June 18, 2009) City of Los Angeles Councilman and Metro Board member José Huizar announced at a news conference on Monday that three Los Angeles area law enforcement agencies have started issuing warnings and fines to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians that ignore safety rules around the new six-mile light rail extension of the Metro Gold Line to East Los Angeles.

Trains are being tested on the alignment in advance of passenger service. An opening date has not yet been determined.

Media Relations produced a video report of the news conference where officials urged safety awareness around the new rail line to East Los Angeles. Narrated by Rick Jager, Communications Manager.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) are patrolling the new

alignment that runs along Alameda, First, Indiana, Third streets and Pomona Boulevard since there have been changes in traffic signage, traffic configuration and street parking.

"Finally, the Eastside community gets a Metro Rail line after years of waiting," Huizar said. "It's not just a transportation system, it's a link to jobs, schools, medical facilities, shopping, culture and entertainment throughout the region. But with this new service comes the responsibility of safety, which is shared by everyone.

"Metro is working hard to educate residents about safe behavior around the trains and tracks. But engineering and education aren't enough. Heightened law enforcement around the train line will help remind pedestrians and motorists to pay close attention as this new and exciting transportation mode comes into our community," he said.



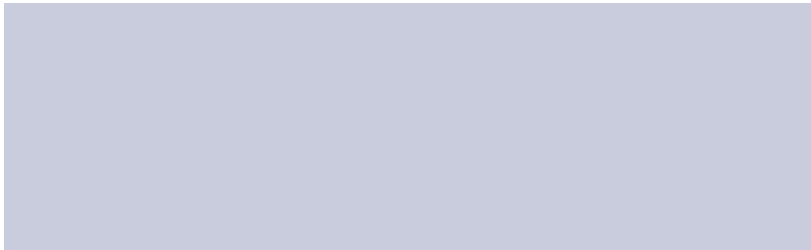
CEO Art Leahy said Metro will be adding more dividers along the right-of-way to keep people from jaywalking across the tracks. "The Gold Line is well designed. It's a really great service. It's safe, but we're going to make it safer," he added.

"Metro has worked closely with the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and local traffic and law enforcement agencies to build a safe rail line," said Metro CEO Art Leahy. "And during the test phase, we're making adjustments to make it even safer. But we truly need the public's help in observing the warning signs and signals and just exercising common sense around the trains and the tracks. Pay attention. Look and listen."

The eight new stations of the Metro Gold Line to East Los Angeles include Little Tokyo/Arts District, Pico/Aliso, Mariachi Plaza (underground), Soto (underground), Indiana, Maravilla, ELA Civic Center and Atlantic.

The last time residents saw a train gliding down the streets of the Eastside community was almost 50 years ago.

As part of the safety campaign, Sheriff's deputies are visiting schools in the surrounding area, motorcycle officers are patrolling the alignment, and Metro is installing photo enforcement cameras at 14 strategic intersections to deter left turn violators. Those tickets come in the mail. Also jaywalkers and trespassers will be fined if they don't respect the safety rules.



Rail Station Assistants Michael Barnes, Ronnie Scott, Ron Autry, Gilbert Maese, and Lorne Currie are among 12 safety



ambassadors working to educate pedestrians, motorists and bicyclists on how to practice safety around the new Gold Line Extension.

Photo by Laura Kloth

Metro also has deployed 12 safety ambassadors at several Eastside intersections to help motorists and bicyclists become familiar with the new light rail train crossings and to educate pedestrians on how to be safe around trains during the testing period and also how to enter and exit the Metro Rail stations.

The ambassadors are at Alameda/Temple, First/Alameda, First/Mission, First/Lorena, First/Indiana, Indiana/Third and Third/Mednik from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and during the weekends from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Since last year Metro staff has been canvassing the Eastside promoting the agency's safety campaign message with delivery of 135,000 flyers to residences and businesses, visits to all schools from Kindergarten to 12th grade, community and religious centers, hospitals and libraries in the service area.

Metro began construction of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension in July 2004. The light rail construction project is within budget, on time and the contractor has logged more than 4 million working hours without a day lost for any accident or injuries.

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Division 10 Bus Operator saves the day in a tight clinch with rioting Laker fans.

Film at 11: Story of Metro Bus Operator whose clear-thinking, cool-handed actions led his passengers to safety when Laker fans targeted his bus, then finished his owl shift run, topped the CBS2 evening news reports on Tuesday.

Click here or on image to
[See the CBS2 exclusive report](#)



(June 18, 2009) Talk about being in the right place at the wrong time, Metro Bus Operator Jose Recinos was operating Line 33 down Figueroa near the Staples Center when mobs of Laker fans, who had been watching the NBA championship game on the big screen, lost control in a frenzy of celebration after the Laker's surprise victory.

Bursting into the street, a mob attacked the bus, now trapped in traffic under the 10 freeway bridge, and began pelting the bus with objects and breaking all of the windows.

Onboard the bus, Recinos was looking out for the safety of his passengers while trying to maneuver the bus out of the area. After breaking the front windows with a giant trash can, the mob stormed to the rear of the bus, giving Recinos and his five passengers a chance to exit safely.

Fortunately, it was all caught on tape. Local CBS2 news crews were on the scene during the regular Sunday night newscast at 9 p.m. and broadcast the incident live. After extensive reporting on the four-hour disturbance, the news team followed up during the week with reports on the chaos and damages caused by the violent revelers.

The interview that led the top of the Channel 2 evening news report on Tuesday was the one with Metro Bus Operator Jose Recinos.



Above, Jose Recinos bus 6549, below, a field supervisors unit ransacked and burned near the Metro Blue Line Pico Station. Metro sustained an estimated \$58,000 in damages to eight buses with broken windows and graffiti, the burnt-out Vehicle Operations unit, and the Metro Blue Line car at the Pico Station pelted by objects large enough to break the train windows.



Meanwhile, the dedication and professionalism of Operator Recinos did not go unnoticed at the workplace.

Jorge Galvan, assistant operations control manager on duty at Bus Operations Control, Sunday night, said in a report that Recinos "kept the passengers and himself safe until police arrived, then drove the bus out of the danger zone and into Division 10 yard."

But since Recinos is the regular owl assignment operator on Line 33, Galvan said Recinos did not want to disappoint his regular customers who depend on him to pick them up, so he pulled out another bus and continued in service for the remainder of his all-night owl assignment.

"He has received commendations from Bus Operations Control, his manager (Div. 10 Transportation Manager Alva Carrasco) and Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers," said Jody Feerst Litvak, Operations Community Relations Manager at Metro Westside/Central Sector.

"This is about someone from Metro who went above and beyond in a difficult situation. It is not about the 'incident'," she said.

--from Gayle Anderson

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And they're off! No. 6 edges past the cones at a steady pace, ramping up for the barrel run, and putting the money on the sudden-stop nose at the 2008 Metro Bus Roдео.

Metro South Bay to host popular Metro Bus Roдео Sept. 26

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(June 23, 2009) Back by popular demand, the almost-cancelled Metro Bus Roдео will be held Sept. 26.

The South Bay Sector will host the 2009 event, reports Metro South Bay GM Dana Coffey.

"Expect some good old Southern hospitality," said Coffey, who anticipates a family event pumped up by volunteers rather than scaled down by lack of funds.

"We're calling on Metro employees to volunteer to help make this another successful Roдео year," she said.

As usual, the Roдео will be held in the peripheries of the Santa Anita Race Track, seemingly the only place in town big enough to handle the bus obstacle course, the mechanic's arena of event tents and an expected 1,000 Roдео fans, not to mention the family playground, information booths, a spectacular visit from the Sheriff's rescue helicopter and a massive barbecue picnic under a big top tent.

Operators will take the field for the preliminaries Sept. 16 -19.

Practice sessions will be available from Sept. 10 to Sept. 15, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. But even before operators can turn the key, they must qualify according to criteria that requires a steady, good performance record with no avoidable accidents and no more than three miss-outs, a dispatcher's term for late.

Competitors and judges will be able to register online and check schedules at the [Roдео](#) website on *myMetro.net* starting in August.

Typically, the competition begins at 8 a.m. and lasts until about 3 p.m. each day. Because the events occur during scheduled work shifts, employees must have their supervisor's approval prior to volunteering for the Rodeo.



Rodeo fans gather to watch mechanics beat the clock in trouble-shooting matches. Looking right out of the Indy 500, the stylish San Gabriel Valley mechanics team give the fans a photo op.



In the meantime, the Rodeo Committee is preparing for one of the best Bus and Maintenance Rodeo competitions in the industry, said South Bay Division 18 Transportation Manager Cynthia Karpman, who leads the committee.

Members include Coffey, Karpman, Alex DiNuzzo, Ken Matsuno, Myrine White, Demetrius Jones, Gary Shiroishi, Margaret Merhoff, Edward Castillo, Frank Cecere, Steve Mullaly, Gwendolyn Keene, Omark Holmes, Esther Carlstone, James Woodson, and Harold Torres.


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Metro Bus Service Changes and Enhancements go into effect June 28

Service changes, a timetable tune-up, help keep Metro buses on schedule. Changes include new stops and additional service.



• Temporary bus line will serve future Metro Gold Line stations

(June 23, 2007) Metro will implement several bus service changes and enhancements Sunday, June 28, to boost efficiency as well as to adjust some routes and add service during peak hours.

Included in these changes will be a temporary bus line to serve patrons on the Eastside by traveling along the exact route of the soon to open six-mile extension of the Metro Gold Line. Once the light rail line is opened, this special bus service will be discontinued.

The new Line 632 will operate between Patsaouras Transit Plaza/Union Station in downtown Los Angeles and the Gold Line's Atlantic Station via First Street and Third Street. It will serve all of the extension's stations including Little Tokyo/Arts District, Pico/Aliso, Mariachi Plaza, Soto, Indiana, Maravilla, East LA Civic Center and Atlantic.

Service will be provided on weekdays only from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. running every 10 minutes in the peak periods and every 15 minutes in non-peak periods. Metro passes and Metro day passes also will be accepted on the new line.

Additional enhancements include the adjustment of some Metro Bus lines to better serve the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension which should open for service later this summer.

Other changes include new stops and/or additional weekday bus service to be implemented on lines 26/51/52/352, 45, 60, 62, 92, 105, 120, 224, 460 and 901 (Orange Line).

Additional Saturday and/or Sunday service will be added on lines 78, 111 and 794. Metro will extend the routes of bus lines 287, 487, 620 and 794.

--from Rick Jager

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Tagging damage to this sign over the 101 Freeway prompted Caltrans to issue an emergency repair.

Two Taggers Facing Vandalism Charges for Defacing Metro, Caltrans Property

By LAURA KLOTH
Staff Writer

(June 23, 2009) A couple of alleged taggers accused of defacing Metro and Caltrans property have been arrested over the past few weeks, said Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sgt. Augie Pando.

On June 10, sheriff's deputies from the Transit Service Bureau Special Problems Unit arrested Leol Mendivil, 19, who uses the alias of "Punter," and charged him with felony vandalism for allegedly defacing Metro Gold and Green line property, and Caltrans signs on the 101 Freeway.

The arrests follow a four-month investigation which led deputies to arrest Mendivil in his Highland Park residence after ramming down his door on the 1800 block of Daly Street, and issuing a warrant.

Pando said in the recent episode, a directional sign on the 101 Freeway was so badly covered in graffiti, "an extreme motorist safety issue resulted in Caltrans having to respond to address the damages immediately." The suspect's moniker was located on a directional sign on the 101 Freeway at Vignes Street and on the Gold Line Extension at Vignes Street, Pando said.

Mendivil was interviewed following the arrest and apparently admitted to the crime, Pando said. Damages were estimated at \$10,000.



Alleged tagger "Punter" displays his moniker on Metro Gold Line property.

On May 26, Cyrus Yazdani who goes by the name of "Buket" was charged with five counts of felony vandalism after he allegedly scribbled his moniker on a sign over the Hollywood Freeway, and then had it advertised on the internet. Damages were estimated at \$14,000.

Yazdani was also accused of defacing a business and a downtown bridge over the Los Angeles River. He was also charged with violating his probation from a couple of previous arrests involving similar acts.

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Wedding Bells Ring for Metro's 'Brady Bunch'

- **TOS Moore and TOS Foster bring three children each to the happy union**

(June 24, 2009) For a newly wed Metro couple, happiness is great conversations, a beautiful new home and a "Brady Bunch" union of two sets of kids into one joyful family.

TOS Reginald Foster, a 23-year Metro veteran who works mark-up at Crossroads Division and father of three, and TOS Sharika Moore, a 12-year employee and mother of three who works the scheduling window at North Los Angeles Division 3, exchanged wedding vows on May 30.



TOS Sharika Moore, a 12-year employee who works the scheduling window at North Los Angeles Division 3, wed TOS Reginald Foster, a 23-year Metro veteran who works mark-up at Crossroads Division on May 30.

The two long-time Metro employees met at Crossroads Division five years ago in 2004 when Sharika was an operator and TOS Reggie was on mark-up.

She was a single mom, with three boys aged 3, 7, and 11 to raise. He was a divorced dad and the father of three – a 21-year-old son and two daughters, then 15 and 14 years old.

The two struck up enough interesting conversations to cause a spark, said Sharika. Today, it's still the interesting conversations that both look forward to when they meet up after a hard day's work.

"We work at separate divisions now," she said, "and when we complete our day, we have such good conversations about how it went that it really lowers our stress level."

The couple not only works at separate divisions, they also endure conflicting shifts. Reggie works early mornings from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sharika works afternoons from 12:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. But the shake-up in June is about to change all that. Both will take on early mornings but Sharika will have to go the distance to South Bay Division 18, a sort of alma mater for Reggie, who worked there for 12 years.

Bridegroom Reggie agrees. Although he readily admits "it was love at first sight," he credits the conversations as the initial point of attraction.

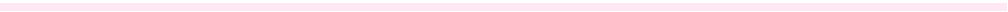
He's a new father, again. With his children all grown up, (his 26-year-old

son is a Sheriff's Deputy in Riverside County and his two daughters are attending college in Tennessee) he's taken to Sharika's three sons who are now 16,12, and 8 years old. "I spend a lot of time with them, said Reggie, a Pittsburgh native who describes himself as a die-hard Steelers fan.

This Metro wedding is all in the family: Reggie's mother, Lula Foster, is a custodian at the Rail Operations Control. Sister Jovita Foster holds the same occupation at Metro Headquarters. Close friend Karmana Potts, also a TOS at Division 3, planned the nuptial ceremony and reception held at the couple's new home.

Although not quite a June bride, the new Mrs. Foster couldn't have been happier and neither could her new husband, Reggie, with the "staycation" honeymoon in their new 3,400 sq ft 5-bedroom home in Corona.

--from Gayle Anderson



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Metro team gets a dig in at the ground-breaking ceremonies for the Metro Orange Line extension to Chatsworth.

First Official Measure R Construction Project Begins

• Metro Breaks Ground on Metro Orange Line Extension to Chatsworth

By Dave Sotero
Media Relations

(June 25, 2009) Marking the first official project to begin construction under the new voter-approved Measure R transportation sales tax, Metro has broken ground on a four-mile extension of the highly successful Metro Orange Line.

The extension of L.A. County's premier dedicated busway will begin at the line's current terminus in Canoga Park. Reaching four miles north to the Chatsworth Metrolink/Amtrak Station, the new extension will add new north-south mobility options in the West San Fernando Valley and create a vital connection between Metro Orange Line service and a broader inter-urban rail system spanning all counties of Southern California and beyond.

City and county officials met with Sully-Miller Contracting Co. at the Chatsworth Station for groundbreaking ceremonies on the first phase of construction – a north parking lot that will replace a south parking lot needed to accommodate current train passengers during construction.

Construction work on the alignment is expected to begin in



late 2009 to early 2010. As a result of Measure R funding, the busway extension is projected to open in mid-2012 – more than three years ahead of schedule.

CEO Art Leahy: "Metro is revolutionizing transportation in Los Angeles and Southern California."

A positive transportation option

"Angelenos want more public transportation options, and we're making that a reality beginning with the extension of the Metro Orange Line," said Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Chair Antonio Villaraigosa.

"The voters made their voices heard loud and clear when they overwhelmingly passed Measure R, and now we're able to deliver this project three years ahead of schedule," he said. "This is the first of many projects now in the pipeline that will dramatically improve regional mobility, create news jobs and generate new economic opportunities for all Angelenos."



Metro Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky shares a moment as Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa gives up the podium for the Orange Line's original booster. At right, Los Angeles City Councilman Greig Smith.

L.A. County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky was among the first public officials within Los Angeles to advocate for a local dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. "The extension to Chatsworth will build on the success that has made the Metro Orange Line one of the most renowned busway projects in the nation," Yaroslavsky said. "We've already proven that you can create a premium rapid bus service that is both affordable and flexible enough to serve the growing needs of today's transit riders. Now even more commuters stand to benefit from connections with the Valley's best short-cut."

The Los Angeles Economic Development Council estimates that the \$215.6 million construction phase of the Metro Orange Line Extension project will create 3,000 annual full-time equivalent jobs as well as infuse \$461 million in direct and indirect business revenues back into the local economy.



Project team: CEO Art Leahy leads photo op of Metro employees at ground-breaking of Metro Orange Line extension to Chatsworth. *Photo by Scott Harms, Los Angeles County.*

Eco-friendly and well-connected

When complete, the Metro Orange Line extension will transform the Metro-owned right-of-way into an attractive landscaped busway similar to the existing Metro Orange Line corridor. Major features will include four station stops at Sherman Way, Roscoe, Nordhoff and Chatsworth, a new 207-space park and ride facility at the Sherman Way Station, landscaping and parallel bicycle and pedestrian paths.

The design-build project also will include an elevated bridge at Lassen Street for buses to safely pass over Metrolink and Amtrak train tracks as they enter Chatsworth Station. Metro also will build privacy walls where the busway is built adjacent to residential properties, as well as install new traffic signals and other roadway improvements.

The extension will provide high-capacity transit linkages between major local activity centers, and is expected to help relieve congestion on North-South arterial streets.

The Metro Orange line has exceeded ridership estimates since its first day of operation in October 2005. Currently handling an average of 22,000 boardings per day, the extension is expected to generate 9,000 new average weekday boardings by the year 2030.



Following the first phase of construction of a parking lot, construction work on the alignment is expected to begin in late 2009 to early 2010. Check it out at [Metro Orange Line Extension](#) pages on metro.net.

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Check it out at www.dodgers.com

Leahy's on the mound. Here's the wind-up and the pitch.

It's Metro Night at Dodger Stadium Aug. 8

- \$25 includes admission and all you can eat! Tickets will be on sale through July 31 at the credit union's Metro Headquarters office, the Gardena location, and from Metro transportation stenos at the following divisions: 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 21 and at Rail Operation Control (ROC).

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

Warming up in the improvised bull pen behind the Metro Gateway Center, CEO Art Leahy loosens up in preparation for what will prove to be the most memorable of his many baseball memories – the chance to stand on the mound at Dodger Stadium and throw the first pitch at the upcoming Metro Night Game, Aug. 8.



The artful Dodger?

Metro's CEO plays hardball, Aug. 8, when he takes the mound to throw out the first pitch at Dodger Stadium in the home game against the Atlanta Braves.

Stock photo video image.

OK, we're just kidding about the bullpen behind the Metro headquarters, but not about Leahy's memories of watching some of the greatest players who ever judiciously pine-tarred the grip of a finely-crafted Louisville Slugger.

"At Dodger Stadium I've seen Gil Hodges, Sandy Koufax, Maury Wills, two World Series Dodger wins, a no-hitter, and a triple play," Leahy said, remembering the day he attended his first Dodgers game at the Coliseum in 1958.

It was the first year the Dodgers played there, and they were taking on the Chicago Cubs. Despite a memorable defeat for the Dodgers, Leahy

recalls, on that day, he signed on as a Dodgers fan.

And every game was "lots of fun," he adds.

Event organizer Jim Barnfather, Northrop Grumman Federal Credit Union Vice President of Marketing and Business Development, said when he approached Leahy about throwing out the first pitch, the Metro chief didn't hesitate for a moment. "It's every baseball fan's dream to throw out the first pitch," Barnfather said.

This will be the second time the credit union hosts a Metro Dodger Night to honor Metro employees. In 2003, former CEO Roger Snoble threw out the first pitch in front of hundreds of employees and guests.

Barnfather said the credit union has worked very hard to create a great relationship with Metro over the past seven years.

"Metro has been a valued partner in offering credit union services to its employees and retirees and their families," he said, "Northrop Grumman Federal Credit Union's board of directors deemed this an appropriate time to have a special Credit Union Family Event as a tribute to Metro."

Metro employees are invited to watch Leahy burn one across home plate when the Dodgers take on the Atlanta Braves at 7:10 p.m. on Aug. 8.

A total of 1,000 right-field pavilion tickets are being sold with others available once all tickets are sold, Barnfather said. The \$35 face value tickets are being provided by the credit union at a discounted price of \$25.

The price includes admission and "All You Can Eat" hot dogs, nachos, peanuts, pop corn, soda and water. Beer, ice cream and parking are not included.

Tickets will be on sale through July 31 at the credit union's Metro Headquarters office, the Gardena location, and from Metro transportation stenos at the following divisions: 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 21 and at Rail Operation Control (ROC).

Leahy threw out the first pitch at the Lake Elsinore Storm minor league a few years ago as part of a promotion for the 91 Express Lanes.

As the head of the Orange County Transportation Authority, Leahy was instrumental in launching the 10 mile toll road on the Riverside Freeway (State Route 91) which has been touted as the world's first fully automated toll facility.

And, as he winds up this time, Leahy may end up turning to thoughts of the legendary Sandy Koufax for inspiration.

The only question? Would Koufax advise a fastball or a slider, low and inside?





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OBITUARIES

Arnold Carpio, Div. 10 Storekeeper, Dies at 44

- **Services:** Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, July 1 and 2, at [Forest Lawn Memorial](#), 1712 S. Glendale Ave., Glendale. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, July 3, at the [Holy Trinity Catholic Church](#), 3722 Boyce Ave., Los Angeles.

(June 30, 2009) Friends and family are remembering Maintenance Div. 10 Storekeeper Arnold Carpio as a “good friend who will be missed.”

Mr. Carpio, 44, died June 27 at Glendale Memorial Hospital after undergoing surgery following a massive heart attack. He was 44 years old.

Born on June 19, 1965, Mr. Carpio was hired at Metro in November 1990 as a storekeeper and worked periodically as a clerk.



Arnold Carpio

“Arnold was also at the forefront of numerous innovations related to storekeeping,” said Division 10 Maintenance Manager Frank Lonyai. “He was a master of the M3 processing and he had a crucial role in implementing an effective warranty process which saved millions for the Agency.

“Most importantly he was a unique person whom you don’t meet that frequently in life: He was gentle, understanding, supportive, inquisitive and hard working,” he said.

John Gillen, Division 10 mechanic, remembers Mr. Carpio as a “true professional with his work, a believer in his philosophies of life and a fun loving personality that always make you laugh. This combination is rarely found in one person,” he said.

“His compassion, friendship and loyalties only begin to scratch the surface of who this man was. Arnold was more than a friend; he is family and our brother. We will miss him dearly,” said friend and co-worker Tommy Elisaldez, Division 10 mechanic.

Mike Hagan, a Div. 15 Storekeeper, said he knew Mr. Carpio for more than 15 years, and called him “one of the best storekeepers at the division level who trained a lot of people” and was always the first to ask questions during training sessions.

Mr. Carpio’s brother, Ryan, said his brother was also a great brother, uncle and friend to many with a “great sense of humor” – even naming

his dog Leonardo D. Carpio. "We will miss him terribly," he said.

General Clerk Conchita Kemp said Mr. Carpio was "very helpful and very supportive of his co-workers," adding his passing came as a big surprise to Metro employees who knew him.

Mr. Carpio is survived by his wife, Lourdes Basilio Carpio; his parents, Armando and Carmelita Carpio; his brothers, Ryan and Paolo Carpio, and his sister, Carol.

Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, July 1 and 2 at Forest Lawn Memorial, 1712 S. Glendale Ave., Glendale, 91205.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, July 3, at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 3722 Boyce Ave., Los Angeles, 90039.

A reception will follow with the family requesting that those in attendance please wear white instead of black in Mr. Carpio's memory.


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Metro Congratulates 145 Graduates That Make Up the Class of 2009

- [The List:](#) Complete list of Metro graduates

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

Hats off to the 145-plus graduates – Metro employees and relatives – who have successfully completed programs at high schools, colleges, graduate schools and academic and vocational programs across the country.

This year, Metro salutes a team of stellar graduates that includes three valedictorians, one salutatorian, a West Point appointee, an inductee into the Orange County National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame, a future Los Angeles Police officer, an obstetrician, a new attorney, and a few pairs of brothers and sisters who are graduating the same year.

On his last day at the Metro Store, Administrative Intern Ivan Moreno, 22, said he is eager to attend the Los Angeles Police Academy to serve and protect the nation's second largest city.



Ivan Moreno was around 11 when he began visiting Metro with his dad, Scheduling System Project Leader Agustin Moreno. Now at 22, Ivan is off to the Los Angeles Police Academy.

"I'm definitely looking forward to it. It's a new step in my life. It's a challenge. I know it's going to be somewhat tough but I'm definitely ready to take it on. I mean that's what I've been waiting for all these years," he said.

Moreno's dad is Scheduling System Project Leader Agustin Moreno, who first began bringing young Ivan to Metro as a pre-teenager during the "Take Your Child to Work Day."

After two years as an intern, Ivan says, "I'm definitely going to miss it. I've made a lot of acquaintances here." Judith Moreno, Ivan's younger sister, is graduating from Sacred Heart High School in Los Angeles with First Honors.

Transit Operations Supervisor Michael Harris is proud to say that his daughter, Dr. Audra Harris, has completed her residency in obstetrics at Cedars-Sinai, and plans to specialize in cancer research wherever she decides to work.

"I use to think it was a joke when kids said they wanted to grow up to be president or a



Dr. Audra L. Harris, daughter of TOS Michael B. Harris, completed her residency at Cedars-Sinai and plans to go into cancer research.

doctor. But for me, it was true," Harris says noting that his daughter has received three job offers out of state.

Assistant Administrative Analyst Lisa Kough was elated to learn that her son, Bobby Kough will be receiving an appointment to West Point for his efforts in football. Kough graduated from Colony High School in Ontario.

Valedictorians this year are: Kara Rotunno, daughter of Electronic Communications Tech Russell Rotunno; Sara Melinda Villanueva, daughter of Bus Operator Bennie Villanueva;

and Amanda Ngo, daughter of Div. 8 Mechanic Leader En Thai Ngo.

Deborah Alexis Price, daughter of Sr. Communications Officer, Marketing Yvonne Price, was named salutatorian of her graduating class at Los Alamitos High School, while Employee Labor Relations Rep Myrtle Shott is proud to note that her grandson, Ryan Shott, was named "Cougar of the Year" for his "sportsmanship, academics and leadership" at Capistrano Valley High School in Mission Viejo. He was named the "All Around Athlete of the Year" for his achievements in football, basketball and track. Ryan was also named Scholar Athlete of the Orange County National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame, and will be playing for UCLA in the fall – "Go Bruins!"



Transit Operations Sup. Odell Ross and Assistant Transportation Manager Margo Ross added a pair of graduates to the list.

Their daughter, Blanch D. Ross graduated from Cal State University-Northridge with an MA in Public Administration, while their son, Deuel Ross, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School with a Juris Doctorate.

Employee Labor Relations Rep Myrtle Shott's grandson, Ryan Shott is joined by his little brother, Michael for the National Anthem. Ryan was named "All Around Athlete of the Year" for his achievements in football, basketball and track at Capistrano Valley High School, and will be playing for UCLA in the fall – "Go Bruins!"

"My husband and I are very proud of both of them," says Margo Ross.

The time has come to celebrate and prepare to take on that new job, experience that new school, shoulder new responsibilities and explore new possibilities, so to the sons, daughters and all other graduates – hearty congratulations, best wishes and lots of luck.

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METRO'S LIST OF GRADUATES - Class of 2009



Metro's Finest: First class of Metro Transit Security Officers graduate from grueling 18-week police training at El Camino College Police Academy. In addition to expanding an expertise in law enforcement, the officers are now certified to work as Reserve Officers. They are, from left, Senior Officer Henry Solis, Senior Officer Gregory White, Officer Barry Nixon, Officer Marlon Valdez, Officer Ayman Soliman, Officer Edbert Pickwood, Officer Carlos Pena, and Senior Officer Dave Ebling. Not pictured: Graduates Sergeant Yi Pu and Officer Patrick Garcia.

Click on links below to find a graduate's name.

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A

Drenda Adams, daughter of Bus Operator Patrisha Willis, graduated from Cal State-Fullerton with a BA in Business Administration.

Facilities Maintenance Supervisor **Forrest Adams** graduated from Riverside City College with an AS in Business/Management with Great Distinction.

Elisa Nicole Aguilar, daughter of Gold Line Fleet Services General Clerk III Brenda Aguilar, graduated from John Burroughs High School in Burbank. President's Award.

Jason Akinfolann, son of General Clerk III Lisa Akinfolann, graduated from Chaffey College with an AA in Political Science.

Rishika Ranasinghe Arachchige, son of Electronic Communications Tech Ananda Arachchige, graduated from Torrance North High School, Volunteer of the Year HUCLA 2008 City of Los Angeles; Athletic Achievement in Boy's Tennis- 2007; Stellar Student Award for Integrated Science.

Store Keeper-Logistics **Paul C. Arndt** graduated from Pasadena City College with an AS in Liberal Arts.

Angelo Atienza, son of Senior Auditor Willie Atienza, graduated from Cal State-Long Beach with a BS in Business Administration – Accountancy.

Angelica Azul, daughter of Div. 20 Maintenance Specialist Fidel Azul, graduated from Victor Valley High School in Victorville.

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B

Jaime Banuelos, son of Equipment Record Specialist Tiffany Yace, graduated from Mark Keppel High School in Alhambra.

Anthony Michael Benitez, son of Bus Operator Michael Anthony Benitez, graduated from Bloomington High School in Fontana. Principal's Honor Roll.

Steven Michael Benitez, son of Bus Operator Michael Anthony Benitez, graduated from Bloomington High School, Fontana. Principal's Honor Roll, US Navy Nuclear Field Program.

Director of Facilities Maintenance **Brady Branstetter** graduated from California Lutheran University with an MBA.

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C

Michael S. Canel, son of Rail Transit Operations Supervisor Luis F. Canel, graduated from West Covina High School.

Jonathan Eduardo Casasola, son of Auditor-Management Audit Services Claudia Casasola, graduated from Northview High School in Covina.

Gerardo Cervantes, son of Rail Transit Operations Supervisor Esperanza Diosdado, graduated from Glendora High School.

Rudy Chairez, son of Pension & Benefits Technician Rudy Chairez, graduated from Alta Loma High School in Rancho Cucamonga. Soccer Team, JV MVP, Varsity Coach's Award, 1st Team Baseline League.

Colleen A. Charles, daughter of Administrative Analyst Denise Charles, graduated from UCLA with a BS in Civil Engineering.

Adrian Chanell Clark, daughter of Bus Operator Tenisha L. Ford, graduated from Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies.

Jaime Cloud, daughter of Digital System Tech Robert Cloud, Sr., graduated from Pepperdine University with a BS in Psychology.

Robert Christopher Cooke II, son of Equipment Records Specialist Nicole Rainer, graduated from King Drew Magnet in Los Angeles.

Ron Cooper, son of Config. Document Control Manager Dianne Curzon, graduated from the University of Phoenix with a BA in Business Marketing.

Johnny Cruz, son of Mechanic A Paul Cruz, graduated from Bonita High School in LaVerne.

Marian Christy Cubero, daughter of Redline Fleet Services Leader Tadeo Cubero, graduated from Copper Mountain College's RN program.

Candice Curwen, daughter of AWD Div. 5 Mechanic Relief Leader Lynton Curwen, graduated from Emily Griffith High School.

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D

Britney M. Daniels, daughter of Rail Transit Operations Sup. Joseph Daniels and Transit Operations Sup. Cheron Anthony, graduated from Casa Loma Nursing College in Hawthorne with an LVN certification. Perfect Attendance/Honor Roll.

Joseph C. Daniels III, son of Rail Transit Operations Sup. Joseph Daniels and Transit Operations Sup. Cheron Anthony, graduated from Narbonne High School in Harbor City.

Nathaniel Davis, son of Bus Operator Lee Davis, graduated from International Polytechnic High School in Pomona.

Florgin Marie Dela Luna, daughter of Bus Operator Flores Dela Luna, Jr., graduated from the University of California-San Diego with a BS in Biology/Chemistry.

Jordan John Dela Luna, son of Bus Operator Flores Dela Luna, Jr., has completed the Pharmacy Technician program at Medical Valley College.

John Rudy DePompa, son of Executive Secretary, Office of CEO Rubi DePompa, graduated from Schurr High School in Montebello.

Nikita Naren Desai, daughter of Div. 6 Mechanic Leader Naren Desai, graduated from Santa Monica High School. Honors - All Subjects.

Hannah Duong, daughter of Project Engineer Danh Duong and Sr. Programmer Analyst Van Duong, graduated from the Univ. of California, Berkeley with a BA in Biology. Accepted to the UCLA School of Dentistry.

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F

Casey Faust, daughter of Administration and Financial Services Manager Paula Faust, graduated from St. Joseph High School in Lakewood. Long Beach Rotary Scholarship to Long Beach State.

Cherisse Figueroa, daughter of Customer Information Agent Pamela Luna, graduated from Warren High School in Downey.

Human Resources Assistant **Elizabeth Flores** graduated from CSULB with a

Master's of Public Administration degree.

Daniel Fontanez, daughter of Blue Line Train Operator Arthur Fontanez, graduated from Lakewood High School.

Latrice Latijera Franklin, daughter of Bus Operator Marie Johnson, graduated from Vista Del Mar High School in Los Angeles.

Lioniece Lynjellica Franklin, daughter of Bus Operator Marie Johnson, graduated from Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles.

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G

CCTV Observer/TCU Ingrid **Inez Garcia** graduated from Cal State-Los Angeles with a degree in Accounting/Business Administration.

Administrative Intern **Marco Garcia** has received his MBA degree with a focus on Project Management from the Keller Graduate School of Management.

Aaron L. Gilless, son of Acting Project Manager, Vertical Transportation Systems Vance Gilless, graduated from Home School in Sunland, Eagle Scout.

Raul Gomez, son of Leadman - Copy Center Raul Gomez, graduated from Upland High School.

Ariana Nicole Gonzalez, daughter of Customer Information Agent Irma Diana Castellanos, graduated from Upland High School in Upland.

Viviana Gonzalez, daughter of Div. 3 Stock Clerk Armando J. Gonzalez, graduated from California State University-Northridge with a BA in Child and Adolescent Development.

Sebastien Guillemet, son of Construction Div. Project Control Mgr. Bruno Guillemet, graduated from Loyola High School in Los Angeles.

Herbert Jr. Guillen, son of Train Operator Herbert Guillen, graduated from Marshall High School, Los Angeles.

Alexandra Guzman, daughter of Bus Operator Cesar Guzman, graduated from University High School in Los Angeles.

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H

Sami Marie Harper, daughter of Human Resources Manager Kathi Harper and Div. 9 Bus Operator Sam Harper, graduated from the University of California-Santa Barbara with a BA in Sociology.

Dr. Audra Harris, daughter of Div. 6 Transit Operations Supervisor Michael B. Harris, completed her OB/GYN residency at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and will specialize in cancer research.

Jason and Jeremy Helliwell, sons of Retired Mechanic A Thomas Helliwell, graduated from Hart High School in Newhall. Barbara Helliwell, wife of Retired Mechanic A Thomas Helliwell, graduated from the University of

Phoenix with a BSN.

Samantha Hess, daughter of Mechanic A Leader Sammy Hess, graduated from Wilson High School in Hacienda Heights.

Yazmin A. Hooper, daughter of Schedule Maker Will Hooper, graduated from Santiago High School in Corona.

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I

Adrian D. Iglesias, daughter of Bus Operator David S. Iglesias, graduated from Pete Knight High School in Palmdale.

Tracy Ingham, daughter of Sr. Buyer Pat Ingham, graduated from UCLA with a BA in Design and Digital Media.

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J

Alexis Jackson, daughter of Equipment Record Specialist Inthia Pierce, graduated from Animo Inglewood Charter.

Asst. Administrative Analyst, Human Services **Jennifer Janer** graduated from the University of La Verne with an MBA in Finance and Marketing.

Darrell Jimerson, son of Accountant Cynthia Jimerson, graduated from Cal State University-Dominquez with a BS in Information Systems.

Maya E. Jones, daughter of Senior Contract Administrator Nathan Jones III, graduated from New Roads in Santa Monica.

Jarrold Joyce, son of Maintenance Div. 15 Mechanic A Dan Joyce, graduated from Los Altos High School in Mountain View. Lettered in Varsity Football and Track & Field.

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K

Marcus Karriem, son of Bus Operator Sandra Douglas, graduated from William Taft High School, GPA 3.95.

Tommy Ka-Wing Mo, husband of Accountant Carol Ng, graduated from California State-Northridge with an MS in Mechanical Engineering.

Kenneth Knutson, Warranty and Equip. Mech. Louis Knutson, graduated from Temple City High School.

Bobby Kough, son of Corporate Safety Asst. Admin. Analyst Lisa Kough, graduated from Colony High School in Ontario with a Full Football Scholarship to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

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L

Westside Area Team Transportation Planner II **Jessica (Sien Gee) Lai** graduated from California State University with an MA in Economics.

Michael Lavergne, son of Div. 18 Bus Operator Peggy Lavergne, graduated from Compton High School.

Transit System Engineer **Edward Lee** graduated from Cal State-Long Beach with a Masters degree in Public Administration.

Tatanisha Livingston, daughter of Bus Operator Patrisha Willis, graduated from George Washington Prep., GATE Honor Student, MVP Lady Generals.

Scheduling Doc. Graphic Tech **Lawrence Lopez** graduated from Cal State University-Northridge with a BA in Graphic Design.

Steven Lopez, son of Transportation Planner Maria I. Lopez, graduated from Walnut High School.

Administrative Intern/Human Resources **Gary Luan** graduated from Cal State University-Los Angeles with a BS in Business Administration.

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M

Marisa Madrid, daughter of Rail Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Ruben Madrid, graduated from Cornell University with a BA in Industrial Labor Law.

Raymond Mandujano III, son of Rail Transit Operations Supervisor Raymond Mandujano Jr. and stepson of Bus Operator Kristina Mandujano, graduated from Don Bosco Technical Institute in Rosemead, Honors-Computer Science.

Westside Area Team Administrative Intern **Sarah Manning** graduated from UCLA with an MA in Urban Planning.

Aaron Marquez, son of Customer Information Agent Della Montes, graduated from West Covina High School.

Customer Information Agent **Crystal Martell** graduated from Cal State-Los Angeles with a BS in International Business/Minor in Economics.

Armando L. Martinez, Jr. son of Mechanic A Armando L. Martinez, graduated from Bloomington High School.

Communications Coordinator **Jacqueline Martinez** graduated from Cal State University-Los Angeles with a BA in Spanish.

Lizbeth Martinez, daughter of Mechanic A Manuel Martinez, graduated from the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies.

Marilyn Martinez-Bright, daughter of Div. 9 Transit Operations Sup. Norma Perera, graduated from the University of LaVerne with a MA in Education.

Nadine Martinez Rodriguez, daughter of Bus Operator Barbara Martinez, graduated from Cal State University-Los Angeles with a Master's in Biology.

Vincent Art Martinez, son of Non Destructive Tech, Main. Instruct. Dept. Arthur Martinez, graduated from UCLA with a BA in Economics.

Todd Seiji Matsumoto, son of Deputy Executive Officer TAP Operation Jane Matsumoto and Chief Financial Services Officer & Treasurer Terry Matsumoto, graduated from Venice High School Foreign Language Magnet in Los Angeles.

Christian "C.J" McKenzie, son of Transportation Operations Supervisor Don McKenzie, graduated from Birmingham High School in Lake Balboa.

Ericka Meneses, daughter of Div. 10 Mechanic Lilian Meneses, graduated from Mark Keppel High School in Alhambra.

Sarah Joy Mendoza, daughter of Construction Administrative Assistant Cynthia Mendoza, graduated from Cal State-Fullerton with a degree in Communications/Journalism.

Diversity & Economic Opportunity Administrative Intern **Ryan Milanio** graduated from DeVry University with a BA in Business Administration-Project Management.

Mia Victoria Mitchem, daughter of Div. 3 Bus Operator Esmeralda Mitchem, graduated from Paramount High School.

Rebeca Moir, wife of Train Operator Victor Moir, graduated from the University of Phoenix with a BA in Human Services.

Programming & Policy Analysis Administrative Intern **Andrew M. Mora** graduated from Azusa Pacific University with an MBA in Marketing.

Administrative Aide **Alicia Morales-Rodriguez** graduated from the University of Phoenix with an MA in Business Administration.

Judith Moreno, daughter of Service Performance Analysis Project Leader Agustin Moreno, graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Los Angeles with 1st Honors.

Public Relations Administrative Intern **Ivan Moreno**, son of Service Performance Analysis Project Leader Agustin Moreno, graduated from California State University-Los Angeles with a BS in Criminal Justice.

Alexander Morse, son of Deputy Executive Officer-Communications Warren Morse, graduated from the Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies in Tarzana.

Akbar Motiwala, son of Sr. Accountant Arif Motiwala, graduated from Cal State-Fullerton with a BA.

Yasir Motiwala, son of Sr. Accountant Arif Motiwala, graduated from Diamond Ranch High School.

Heather Murdock, daughter of Bus Operator Donna Murdock, graduated from the University of Phoenix with a BA in Business/Public Administration.

Kristina Murray, daughter of Senior Worker's Comp Analyst Marty McCaffery, graduated from Crossroads High School in Santa Monica and has received a scholarship to the University of Kentucky.

Daniel "Chip" Mynatt, son of Mechanic A Chris Mynatt, graduated from City of Angels, Athletic Achievement.

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N

Sabrina Nava, daughter of Rail Operator Eddie Nava, graduated from Bishop Amat High School

Aujanae Neal, daughter of Transit Operations Supervisor Victoria Graham, graduated from St. Odilia School in Los Angeles with Honors in Math, Social Studies, Language and Citizenship.

Jhanae Neal, daughter of Transit Operations Supervisor Victoria Graham, also graduated from St. Odilia School in Los Angeles with honors English and Social Studies and Science Top 10, Principal's Award and Academic Decathlon.

Amanda Ngo, daughter of Div. 8 Mechanic Leader En Thai Ngo, graduated from Grover Cleveland High School, Reseda. Valedictorian. Jessica Nueva, daughter of Maintenance Div. 10 Mechanic A Guillermo Nueva, graduated from the University of LaVerne with an MA in Education.

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O

Matthew Christopher Olivo, son of Logistics Store Keeper Rene Olivo, graduated from Damien High School in LaVerne.

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P

Tekeula Passmore, daughter of Div. 1 Storekeeper Vernon Passmore, graduated from Saugus High School.

David C. Peña, son of Accounting Payroll Clerk Raquel Peña, graduated from Glendora High School.

Deborah Alexis Price, daughter of Sr. Communications Officer, Marketing Yvonne Price, graduated from Los Alamitos High School as Salutatorian, 4.43 GPA and will attend UCLA; National Merit Scholarship Distinguished Student & (Academic Achievement of 3.5+ on 5 AP Exams) ; Japanese National Honor Society; Community Service Pathway Cord; Medical Field Pathway Cord;

Administrative Analyst **Elizabeth Pulido** graduated with a Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Cal Poly - Pomona.

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Q

Yvette Quezada, daughter of Div. 9 Senior Service Attendant Jesse Quezada, graduated from UCLA with a BA in English.

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R

Melissa Rice, daughter of Senior Safety Specialist Tammy Rice, graduated

from LaVista High School in Fullerton.

Brittany Bralaune Riley, daughter of Customer Service Agent Lorna Riley, graduated from Highland High School with Honors in English and History, 1st Place Winner of the California Educational Theater Association Award.

Taja J'Reon Robertson, son of Div. 6 Bus Operator Carlton Robertson, graduated from Cal State-San Diego with a BS in Accounting/Economics.

Brooke Robinson, daughter of Transit Operations Sup. Burke "Speedy" Robinson and Bus Operator Shemikea Robinson, graduated from Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles.

Jessica Rodgers, daughter of Div. 18 Bus Operator Jimmy Rodgers, graduated from Long Beach Polytechnic High School, Academic Honor Roll.

Tiffanie Rodriguez, daughter of Div. 18 Lead Body Shop Johnny Rodriguez, graduated from Los Altos High School, Hacienda Heights, Honor Roll, 4.2 GPA

Jennifer J. Rojas, daughter of Div. 6 Maintenance Manager Hector Rojas, graduated from California State University-Fullerton with a BA in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Psychology.

Blanch D. Ross, daughter of Transit Operations Sup. Odell Ross and Assistant Transportation Manager Margo Ross, graduated from Cal State University-Northridge with an MA in Public Administration.

Deuel Ross, son of Transit Operations Sup. Odell Ross and Assistant Transportation Manager Margo Ross, has received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Kara Rotunno, daughter of Electronic Communications Tech Russell Rotunno, graduated from Glendora High School, Class Valedictorian.

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S

Meljon Mariano Salazar, son of Transit Operations Sup. Joanabelle Mariano Salazar, graduated from Faith Baptist School in Canoga Park. Honors, President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence; Bible Award; National School Choral Award; Most Outstanding Alumni for 2009

Marshall Schurtz, son of Treasury Debt Manager LuAnne Schurtz, graduated from Westlake High School, Westlake Village, A.P. Scholar.

Tabitha D. Seelig, daughter of Transit Operations Supervisor David Seelig, graduated from Yucaipa High School in Yucaipa.

Ryan Shott, grandson of Employee Labor Relations Rep. Myrtle Shott, graduated from Capistrano Valley High School in Mission Viejo, Athlete of the Year; Orange County National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame Scholar Athlete.

Javier Silva, son of W.E.M., MSSC Gerardo J. Silva, graduated from Burbank High School. CSF, Model United Nations and Speech Debate Sealbearer, Presidential Award.

Amantha Simpson, daughter of Senior Departmental System Analyst Mark

Simpson and Materiel Inventory Analyst Bernadette Simpson, graduated from Serrano High School in Phelan.

Jessica L. Smith, daughter of Division 6 Bus Operator Christine Smith, graduated from the University of California-Santa Barbara with a BS in Zoology, Spanish Minor.

Marissa A. Soto, daughter of Director of Accounting Jesse Soto, graduated from Ramona Convent Secondary School in Alhambra. President's Award for Education Achievement and Lifetime Membership in the California Scholarship Federation.

Erika Domonique Stewart, daughter of Custodian Timani Middleton, graduated from St. Mary's Academy in Inglewood.

Terrisha M. Stewart, daughter of Bus Operator Patricia Stewart, graduated from Pete Knight High School, Honors in Anatomy and Physiology.

Communications and Control System Engineer **Stephen M. Stone** graduated from California State University-Dominguez Hills with a BS in Business Administration/Management/Human Resources.

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T

Organizational Development & Training Administrative Intern **Katie Talbert** graduated from Cal State University-Dominguez Hills with a BS in Accounting.

Amanda Juliette Tapia, daughter of Mechanic A Armando Tapia, graduated from Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights with Honors in Performing Arts.

Shannon Thomas, daughter of Bus Operator Danielle Harris, graduated from San Fernando High School.

Stephen Wm. Tontz, Jr., son of Southbay Service Sector Schedule Maker Stephen Wm. Tontz, graduated from Grace Brethren in Long Beach.

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U

Amberlynn Rose Olivia Ullo, step-daughter of Rail Division Transportation Manager Davide F. Puglisi, graduated from Burbank High School, Bulldog Award, Swim Team MVP, Coach's Award.

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V

Kimberly Valdivia, daughter of Div. 10 Equipment Maintenance Sup. Miguel Valdivia, graduated from Mt. San Antonio College with an Associate of Arts degree in Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Natalle Vargas, daughter of Service Attendant Leader David Vargas, graduated from Murrieta Valley High School in Murrieta.

Sara Melinda Villanueva, daughter of Bus Operator Bennie Villanueva,

graduated from Polytechnic High School in Sun Valley, High Honors, Valedictorian.

Long Range Planning Administrative Intern **Simon San Vuong** graduated from the University of Southern California with a Master's degree in Planning.

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W

Crystal Renee Walker, daughter of Administrative Aide Brenda M. Davis, graduated from California State-Los Angeles with a BS in Criminal Justice.

Luther A. Walker II, son of Assistant Transportation Manager (Div. 7) Alicia C. Walker, graduated from St. Francis High School in La Canada.

Steven Lee Walker, son of Senior Contract Administrator Phyllis Walker, graduated from Northern Arizona University with a BS in Engineering.

Arthur Wang, son of Software Engineer Jimmy Wang, graduated from Sunny Hills High School in Fullerton with High Honors.

Brittany Nicole Williams, daughter of Bus Operation Control Nadine Triche-Williams and Communications Manager Alonzo Williams, graduated from Bishop Amat Memorial High School, National Society of High School Scholars.

Community Relations Administrative Intern **Michael Williams** graduated from California State University-Channel Islands with a BA in Communications.

Cris Woodson, son of Director Operations Support James "Woody" Woodson, graduated from John A. Rowland High School, in Rowland Heights.

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Y

Sohrab C. Yassan, son of Schedule Supervisor Behzad Yassan, graduated from the University of California-Riverside with a BA in Biology.

Z

Nicole A. Zisner, daughter of Bus Operator Benjamin S. Zisner, graduated from UC-Irvine with a BA in Criminology.

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- The Metro List of Graduates is compiled by Laura Kloth.