



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- [Safety](#)
- [Pressroom](#) (web)
- [CEO Hotline](#)
- [Metro Projects](#)
- [Facts at a Glance](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Research Center/Library](#)
- [Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)
- [Metro Classifieds](#)
- [Retirement Round-up](#)

Metro Info

- [Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)
- [Org Chart](#) (pdf)
- [Policies](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Help Desk](#)
- [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[E-Mail Webmaster](#)

myMetro.net archives | Articles from February 2010

Thursday, February 25

[ARRA Funds Put New Buses in Motion](#) for Contract Services Fleet
[Cyclists provide list of concerns, ideas](#) for Metro staff at Bike Roundtable

Tuesday, February 23

[Fallen Metro Transit Police Officer](#) Remembered at Annual Memorial Service
Carson Division Operator Organizes [‘Help for Haiti’ Clothing Drive](#)

Thursday, February 18

[Memorial Wall](#) Will Pay Tribute to ‘Potter’s Field’ Remains Uncovered During Gold Line Construction Project
[Metro’s Ridership Campaign](#) ‘Easy Sell’ On College Campuses

Tuesday, February 16

[I-405 work crews](#) brave nightfall, chilly weather on Sepulveda Pass Widening Project **VIDEO**
[LAFD Battalion Chief](#) Leaves Metro fire-safety post. John Quintanar retires from LAFD with 35 years on the front lines; announcement of appointment of Battalion Chief Michael Thomas to the Metro post is eminent.

Thursday, February 11

[Metro Valentine:](#) Rideshare with someone you love

Tuesday, February 9

[Go Metro to Chinatown](#) for Chinese Lunar New Year Festivities and Firecracker 10K / Bike Ride
[Metro Volunteers](#) Staff Carson Transit Fair for Seniors **VIDEO**

Thursday, February 4

[Sheriff/LAPD operation](#) cites hundreds for safety violations along the Metro Blue Line
[Metro planner enters](#) Pepsi contest to fund nationwide interactive planning workshop
[Blue Line Deputies](#) Arrest Man for ‘Endangering’ Child

Tuesday, February 2

Metro Store, Divisions Selling [Tickets For Metro Family Day](#)
Metro, MWD [Black History Month](#) Celebration Begins

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#) (web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Drummers Tony Martin and DonCosta Seawell perform at Black History Month opening ceremony held in the Metropolitan Water District boardroom. *Photos by Laura Kloth.*

Metro, MWD Black History Month Celebration Begins

- Metro's African American Employees Association partners with Metropolitan Water District Black Employees Association to launch month-long celebration
- **UPDATED:** [Download BHM event calendar here](#)



MWD's Janice Hill leads the audience in a song during the Black History Month opening ceremony.

By Laura Kloth

Staff Writer

(Feb. 2, 2010) Black History Month was officially launched today with empowering speeches, songs and African drums during the opening ceremony held at the Metropolitan Water district Board Room.

More than 100 people attended to listen to speeches by MWD Board Member John W. Murray and MWD Chief Administrative Officer Gilbert Ivey as well as other leaders.

"We have to take into account those who came before us ... they came before us and sacrificed so that we could be where we are," said Ivey, who was introduced as the highest ranking African American in the water district community.

More than a dozen events are planned for the month as part of a

Schedule of Events: Metro African American Employees Association (AAEA) teams up with MWD's Black Employees Association (BEA) to

sponsor a full roster of events for Black History Month.

- Tues. Feb. 2, noon. **Opening Ceremony** with MWD Director John Murray; MWD CEO Gilbert Ivey (Invocation) and Songs/African Drums. MWD Boardroom.
- Wed. Feb. 3, 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: **FILM *Emperor Jones*** with **Paul Robeson**, MWD Room 1/102
- Thurs. Feb. 4, 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: **FILM *Richard Pryor Clips*** MWD Room 1/102
- Monday, Feb. 8, all day: **Change 4 Haiti** collection jars in MWD Cafeteria.
- Tuesday, Feb. 9, Noon: Buffalo Soldiers, Invocation - MWD Boardroom.
- Wed., Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m.: "Men in Black" **Fish Fry** - MWD Cafe
- Thurs., Feb. 11, 11 a.m. - **Flower Sale** MWD Rotunda.
- Tues., Feb. 16, noon – **Medical Perspectives** from Kaiser Permanente. MWD Room 1/102.
- Wed., Feb. 17, 11 a.m. – **Marketplace / Jazz Concert / Bar-be-que** MWD courtyard.
- Thursday Feb. 18, noon – **Presenter: Author Barron Littlefield** "Your Little Black Book - African American - Patents and Inventions" then play the **Black History Trivia Game**. MWD Boardroom.
- Friday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. (offsite in Hollywood) [Fountain Theatre](#): ***The Ballad of Emmett Till***.
- Monday, Feb. 22, noon- **Black History Trivia Game finals** with celebrity host **Tyrone Fance**. MWD Boardroom.
- Tues., Feb. 23, noon – **Poet's Corner**: Tribute to Harley Searcy. MWD Room 1/102.
- Wed., Feb. 24, 7 a.m. – **Bake Sale** MWD Cafe
- Wed. Feb. 24, 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: **FILM *Brother John*** with **Sidney Poitier**. Popcorn & Red Soda in MWD Room 1/102
- Thurs. Feb. 25, 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: **FILM *Brother John*** with **Sidney Poitier**. Popcorn & Red Soda in MWD

collaborative celebration by Metro's African American Employee Association (AAEA) and the Metropolitan Water District's Black Employees Association (BEA).

Key organizer Susan Dove, Metro Senior Contract Administrator, said Metro's role has been to create a "heightened awareness" of the contributions African Americans have made throughout history.

Dove acknowledged Metro's CEO Art Leahy for his commitment to diversity, as well as the commitment of other executives like Metro's Interim Chief Operations Officer Lonnie Mitchell.

Dove encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming events and to check out the award winning "[America I Am](#)" exhibit now making its run through Los Angeles at the California Science Center.

MWD employee Benita Horn said she would be sending daily reminders to employees about the upcoming events hosted by MWD and Metro because "I want this kind of wonderful attendance at all of the events."

As part of the ceremony, Metro's own Tony Martin and DonCosta Seawell played African drums and MWD's Janice Hill led the audience in singing, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Room 1/102

- Thurs., Feb. 25, 4:30 p.m. – **MGM: Mixer, Games & Music** - MWD Gallery
- Fri., Feb. 26, Noon – **Wills & Living Trusts**. Presentation by Atty. Adina T. Turman. MWD Room 1/102.



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- [Safety](#)
- [Pressroom](#) (web)
- [Ask the CEO](#)
- [CEO Forum](#)
- [Employee Recognition](#)
- [Employee Activities](#)
- [Metro Projects](#)
- [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- [Archives](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Research Center/Library](#)
- [Metro Classifieds](#)
- [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- [30/10 Initiative](#)
- [Policies](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Help Desk](#)
- [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Metro Family Day is April 17 at Six Flags Magic Mountain.

Metro Store, Divisions Selling Tickets for Metro Family Day

By Michael D. White
Staff Writer

(Feb. 2, 2010) The sixth annual Metro Family Day is fast approaching and is sure to break all attendance – and fun – records.

The April 17 event at Six Flags Magic Mountain is expected to draw as many as 5,000 Metro employees and family members who “will have the opportunity to get together with friends and colleagues and have a great time at a great location,” said Danielle Boutier, Metro Director of Communications Services.

One of the most popular events on the agency’s calendar, Metro Family Day was first held in 2005 with about 1,500 attendees. This year, the number of attendees is expected to more than triple with a pool of 5,000 tickets ready to evaporate well in advance.

“The cost of \$18 per adult or child ticket is a genuine bargain,” said Boutier. Each ticket not only grants admission to all the rides at the theme park, but an all-you-can-eat buffet lunch and entertainment including a family photo at the Kodak Kiosk.

“We have a good working relationship with the people at Six Flags and we worked together with them to get the very best possible entertainment package for our

Hot Tix: Special allotments of tickets for Metro Family Day 2010 will be sold – cash only - while supplies last at each of the divisions listed below at the specified dates and times:

- Division 11, Feb. 3, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Division 18, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Division 1, Feb. 10, 10 a.m. – noon
- Division 2, Feb. 10, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- Division 9, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Division 22, Feb. 22, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Division 8, Feb. 24, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- ROC, March 1, 10 a.m. - noon
- Division 4, March 1, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- CSC Baldwin Hills, March 3, 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.
- CSC Wilshire Blvd., March 3, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
- CSC East Los Angeles, March 3, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- Division 10, March 8, 10 a.m. – noon
- Division 21, March 8, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- Division 15, March 10, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Division 3, March 15, 10 a.m. – Noon
- Division 20, March 15, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

employees," she said, adding that the cost of each ticket above and beyond the basic \$18 price was paid for by Metro through its Employee Activities Fund.

Division 6, March 17, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Division 7, March 22, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Division 5, March 24, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

On Metro Family Day, the park will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., with lunch served in the park’s Picnic Area beginning at 11:30, where Metro employees will have access until 3:30 p.m.

A limited number of tickets are now available in the Metro Store on the Plaza Level of the Gateway Building through April 9 until they’re sold out. The Metro Store is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is closed for lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Children under the age of 2 are free and there is a limit of five tickets per employee. No tickets will be sold on the day of the event and a Metro employee badge is required for purchase.



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- [Safety](#)
- [Pressroom](#) (web)
- [Ask the CEO](#)
- [CEO Forum](#)
- [Employee Recognition](#)
- [Employee Activities](#)
- [Metro Projects](#)
- [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- [Archives](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Research Center/Library](#)
- [Metro Classifieds](#)
- [Bazaar](#)

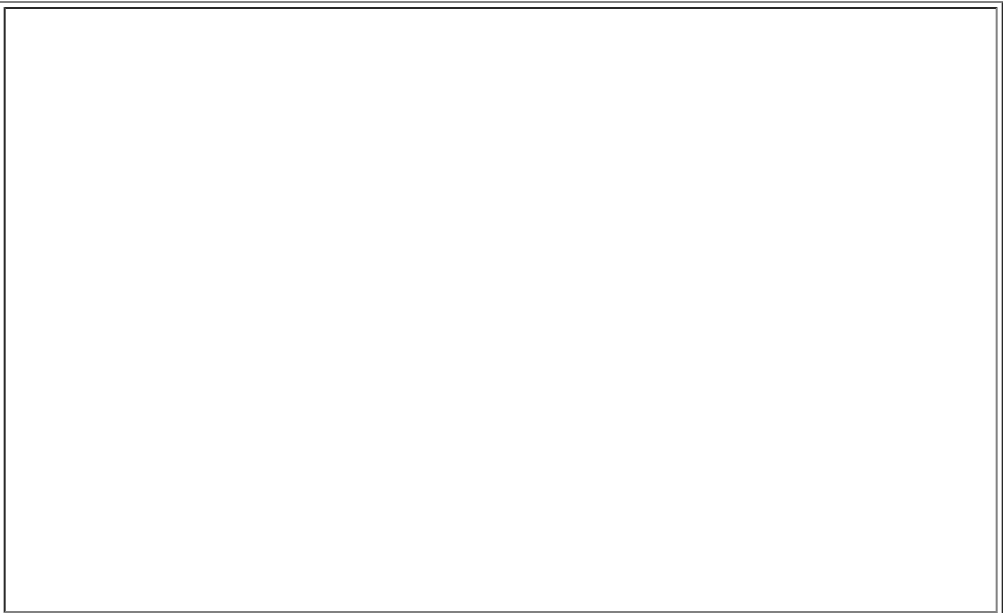
Metro Info

- [30/10 Initiative](#)
- [Policies](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Help Desk](#)
- [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6MppWmslVi0> NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

Metro planner enters Pepsi contest to fund nationwide interactive planning workshop

- You're [one click away](#) to vote for James Rojas' project - *Develop an interactive planning tool to create sustainable cities* - or go to <http://www.refresheverything.com/JamesRojas>

By Fred Camino

As reported in [The Source](#) on metro.net

(Feb. 3, 2009) James Rojas has worked as a Transportation Planner for Metro since 1997 and has been active in the Los Angeles community for many years — using his urban planning knowledge to empower and educate disadvantaged communities. He’s known for having started the LATino Urban Forum, a non-profit group dedicated to informing and engaging people in the urban planning process.

One of James’ most innovative and successful community engagement projects is a planning game he calls “Place it” that uses recycled materials (such as Lego blocks and other similar pieces) as interactive building blocks to create a model urban community. Members of the community can rearrange the models as they please to better describe their preferences and have a fuller understanding of the planning process.

The “Place it” workshops have been successful in Los Angeles and James is looking to expand the project to other communities. Enter *Pepsi’s Refresh Project*, an initiative by the beverage company to make a positive impact on local communities. James has requested a \$25,000 grant to expand the “Place it” workshops throughout Los Angeles and take it nationwide as

well.

So how can you help James take his Metro-honed planning ideas to the rest of the U.S.? Vote! Currently the project ranks 43rd on the Pepsi site. The top 10 projects receive funding. As James notes, there are many other great projects in the running, but his is the only one that has to do with urban planning — something essential for every community.

To learn more about the project and to vote, check out [James Rojas page on the Pepsi Refresh Site](#). Voting ends February 28th.

More on Rojas: See post on The Source by Jose Ubaldó, 12.17.09:
[Eastside students model a future of hope along the Gold Line](#)



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- [Safety](#)
- [Pressroom](#) (web)
- [Ask the CEO](#)
- [CEO Forum](#)
- [Employee Recognition](#)
- [Employee Activities](#)
- [Metro Projects](#)
- [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- [Archives](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Research Center/Library](#)
- [Metro Classifieds](#)
- [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- [30/10 Initiative](#)
- [Policies](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Help Desk](#)
- [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



- A 2-year-old child sleeps peacefully at Metro's ROC after being taken from an alleged drunken man standing on the Blue Line platform. (LASD photo: Face intentionally blurred to protect identity.)

Blue Line Deputies Arrest Man for ‘Endangering’ Child

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(Feb. 4, 2010) A two-year-old child was safely turned over to her mother early in morning of Jan. 26 after several Metro passengers reported seeing a drunken man carrying a child while riding the Blue Line.

Shortly after 9 p.m. on Jan. 25, Transit Bureau Deputies Joseph Benjamin and Brandon Green responded to calls reporting a “drunken adult male carrying a child,” said South Bureau Transit Dep. Andrew Bedogne.

Deputies caught up with the suspect at the Imperial/Wilmington Station Platform where passengers were quick to point out the man.

He told deputies he was the child’s father, but they determined it would be unsafe to let him continue holding the child, Bedogne said, adding the man “appeared to be sloppily drunk and swaying as he carried the child.”

Authorities charged the 25-year-old suspect with child endangerment and disorderly conduct and deputies at Metro’s ROC watched over the child for about four hours while her mother was located, and the Department of Children and Family Services was called.

“She was very quiet,” said Bedogne. “We set her up in front of a computer and put the Disney Channel on, and then she fell asleep,” covered in a borrowed deputy sheriff jacket.

The little girl’s mother was located and the child was released into her care after her interview with the DCFS.

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/
Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Corporate Safety Systems Manager Abdul Zohbi confers with law enforcement officers prior to Sheriff and LAPD crackdown on safety violations along the Metro Blue Line.

Hundreds cited for safety violations in joint Sheriff/LAPD operation along Metro Blue Line

(Feb. 4, 2010) In a concerted effort to promote public safety awareness along the Metro Blue Line, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles Police Department today issued 330 citations, gave 30 warnings and impounded 24 vehicles for 30 days in a joint operation to enforce traffic laws in the street running (non-gated) segment of the light rail line between Washington Station and 7th/Metro Center in downtown Los Angeles.

The operation took place from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and included 31 motorized officers. Metro's Corporate Safety staff also was an active participant. The focus was on violators running red lights, making illegal left turns and pedestrian jaywalking. While there



has been a steady decline in train versus vehicle accidents on the Metro Blue Line, which connects downtown Los Angeles and Long Beach, the level of pedestrian accidents has remained stagnant.

Metro has an active program of “Education, Engineering and Enforcement” to reduce incidents. Illegal left turns and running red lights are the primary cause of train-vehicle accidents with the Metro Blue Line in the non-gated segments while pedestrians illegally crossing the tracks against all active warning signs that include flashing lights, bells, lowering gate arms indicating approaching trains are the top cause of pedestrian accidents in the gated segment of the Metro Blue Line alignment.

-- from staff reports





[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- [Safety](#)
- [Pressroom](#) (web)
- [Ask the CEO](#)
- [CEO Forum](#)
- [Employee Recognition](#)
- [Employee Activities](#)
- [Metro Projects](#)
- [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- [Archives](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Research Center/Library](#)
- [Metro Classifieds](#)

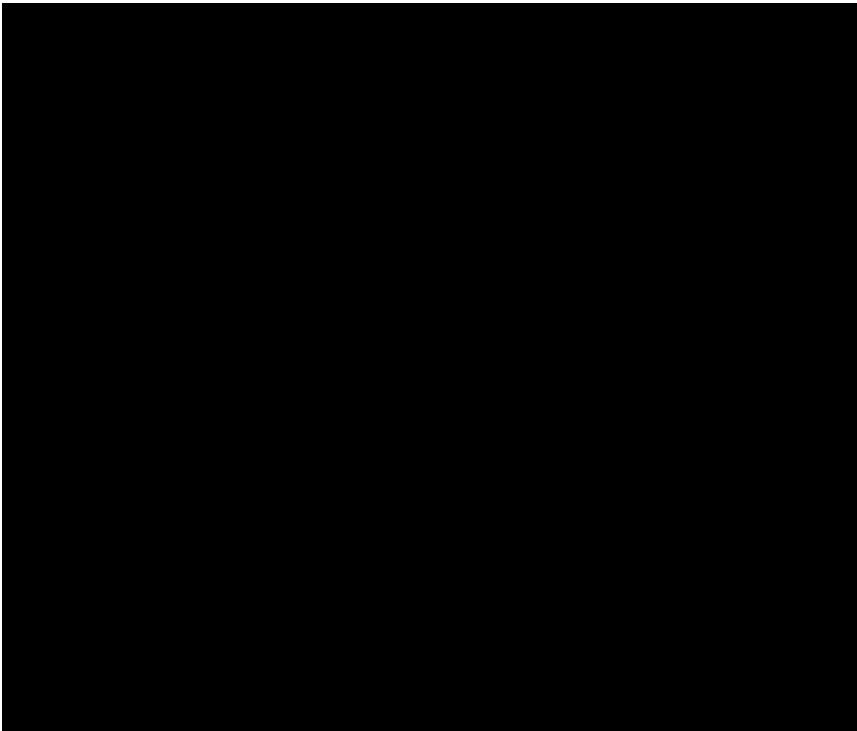
Metro Info

- [30/10 Initiative](#)
- [Policies](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Help Desk](#)
- [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Video by Rich Morallo. Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u97igGWNunE> NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

Carson Seniors Get Transit Help at Dial-A-Ride Fair

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations / Volunteer Coordinator

(Feb. 9, 2010) Mike Gobert's decision to attend a recent Dial-A-Ride Orientation sponsored by the City of Carson was more than just a way to gather some useful information – it was an exercise in personal independence.

"When I had to stop driving due to my health, I used to have to wait for family to pick me up and take to my appointments," said the wheelchair-bound Gobert after visiting the Metro transit information table. "But now I'll be able to go to where I need to go myself."

Gobert was just one of some 1,200 South Bay seniors who were invited to attend the event at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center in Carson and learn how they can be more independent and flexible in getting to where they need to be - on their own.

"We're trying to make public transit convenient and comfortable," explained Carson Transportation Services Manager Cara Rice, who organized the four-day program to introduce clients to the city's new paperless card system. "With this system you will swipe the card when

you get into the cab and swipe it when you get out," Rice said.

Metro bus operators Makeba Rice and Alisha Roquemore busied themselves distributing bus timetables and train schedules and advising the attendees on how to best utilize Metro's county-wide transportation network.

"Arrange the numbers in this book to signal the buses or line you want to ride," said Rice as she opened a Metro Flash Book for a visitor, while Roquemore passed out bags and sign-up sheets for seniors to use Metro to visit a variety of Southland destinations such as the Getty Museum and Shoreline Village.

Conceived and designed by the Metro Communications Department, Flash Books are used by seniors and others to signal Metro bus operators what lines they want to ride.

Tony Banash with the Citizens' Advisory Council was on hand to explain Metro's fare system to the seniors and share his experiences with the agency.

"I can ride transit easily from Long Beach to get to the Carson Community Center," Banash said, a sentiment shared by Shelly Green, who appreciates paying only a quarter to travel on the Metro rail system.

"It feels like I'm in Disneyland when I'm riding on rail," Green said.

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/ Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Go Metro to Chinatown for Chinese Lunar New Year Festivities and Chinese New Year Firecracker Race

- 111th Annual [Golden Dragon Parade](#) is Saturday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m.
- Enjoy Chinese Lunar New Year Festival all weekend long Feb. 20-21.
- 32nd Annual LA Chinatown Firecracker 5k/10k Run/Walk is Sunday, Feb. 28 - Bike Rides 40+miles are Saturday, Feb. 27. Employees receive \$3 off the registration fee with your Metro ID. Visit www.firecracker10k.org to register and use promo code GOMETRO
- Enjoy Nite 'n Day Festival all weekend long Feb. 27-28.

(Feb. 9, 2010) Celebrate the Year of the Tiger. Chinese New Year — 4708 — begins Friday, and festivities continue in Chinatown through the month of February.

The 111th Annual Golden Dragon Parade on Saturday, Feb. 20, begins at 1 p.m. With two dozens floats and bands and more than 100,000 individuals lining the parade route, the traffic will be snarled. But your employee badge can get you to the Chinatown Station -- just minutes from the festivities.

The parade will usher in the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival, which will offer live entertainment and traditional festivities all weekend long from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

But hold on for the following weekend, when you can also celebrate with the running of the 32nd annual L.A. Chinatown Firecracker 5k/10k Run, Walk, Kiddie Run and Bike Ride on Sunday, Feb. 28. And this year Metro employees and riders can get \$3 off the race registration fee when they sign up online using the promotional code GOMETRO.

A traditional lion dance and 100,000 firecrackers will kick off the race on Sunday. The race is a highpoint of the free weekend-long Nite n' Day Festival, featuring music, food and cultural entertainment from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26 and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28.

Another good reason to go Metro is that streets will be closed and parking will be limited for the festivities and race, including the 111th Annual Golden Dragon Parade on Saturday, Feb. 20.

For race information and registration, visit firecracker10k.org. For information on the Golden Dragon Parade and Chinese Lunar go to lagoldendragonparade.com.

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)



[Home](#)

[CEO Hotline](#)

[Viewpoint](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[Archives](#)

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)

▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)

▶ [Archives](#)

▶ [Events Calendar](#)

▶ [Research Center/Library](#)

▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)

▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

[EMPLOYEE RIDESHARE PROGRAM]

Metro's Rideshare Program encompasses all the alternative forms of commuting to and from work. Alternative Modes include: vanpooling, carpooling, walking, bicycling, public bus/train and Metrolink. To learn more about the benefits of ridesharing and how to enroll, please visit <http://intranet1/hr/Programs/Rideshare.asp> or call (213) 922-4863. Come and join the fun and try ridesharing! You will save money on commuting costs, have more time, contribute to a cleaner environment and significantly reduce the amount of stress you create for yourself by commuting to work alone.

Metro Valentine: Rideshare with Someone You Love

By Terree Holman

Corporate Employee Transportation Coordinator



Dan and Lydie Colonello rideshare with someone they love everyday.

(Feb. 11, 2009) Meet Metro employees Dan and Lydie Colonello. Dan is a General Services Supervisor for Mail Services and Lydie is a Senior Buyer in the Purchasing Department. Both are veteran participants in the Employee Rideshare Program and have been ridesharing together for the past nine years.

Rideshare: Tell me about a typical day of ridesharing...

Dan & Lydie: "Our day starts early, 4:30 am. Once we are ready to leave the house, our first stop is Starbucks to pick up our Venti Americanos, double-cupped! We can't function without our coffee!"

Rideshare: Ah, double-cupped?

Dan & Lydie: "Yes, coffee sleeves do not work as well."

Rideshare: Ok, please continue...

Dan & Lydie: "Once we have our Starbucks, we are off to the Newhall Metrolink Station for the first leg of our daily 74 mile roundtrip commute. We like to arrive early at the train station in order to enjoy our coffee, and to make sure that we get a good seat on the train. The train is always packed."

Rideshare: How long is your train ride? Since you are not driving, what do you do with all of your free time on the train?

Dan & Lydie: "The train ride takes approximately 45 minutes to get to Union Station. Ah, free time. Yes, we enjoy reading the paper or talking to each other. Working takes a lot of time away from us being able to spend time with each other, and the train allows us to spend quality time together."

Rideshare: Why do you choose to ride the train versus driving alone?

Dan: "We enjoy riding the train, because we arrive at work fresh and ready to go. If we were to drive, even carpool together, one of us would have to deal with the stress of driving in traffic, not to mention the wear and tear on our car. Also, when we go through the Santa Clarita tunnel and enter the San Fernando Valley, we see all of the traffic on the freeway! This makes us thank our lucky stars for being able to ride the train."

Rideshare: So, you choose to ride the train even though it may take a little longer than carpooling?

Dan: "Yes! Riding the train is less stressful, saves us money and we get to spend valuable quality time together."

Rideshare: Did you know you save approximately \$238 dollars per month riding the train for a total savings of \$2,858 per year? Not to mention that commuting on the train also reduces your car's CO2 output by 1794 pounds per month, for a total of 21,528 per year.

Dan & Lydie: "Wow! It is a good feeling to know that we are saving money, spending quality time with each other and contributing to creating a cleaner environment."

Rideshare: So, spend some quality time with someone you love, and try ridesharing. Dan and Lydie highly recommend it.

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- [Safety](#)
- [Pressroom](#) (web)
- [Ask the CEO](#)
- [CEO Forum](#)
- [Employee Recognition](#)
- [Employee Activities](#)
- [Metro Projects](#)
- [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- [Archives](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Research Center/Library](#)
- [Metro Classifieds](#)

[Bazaar](#)

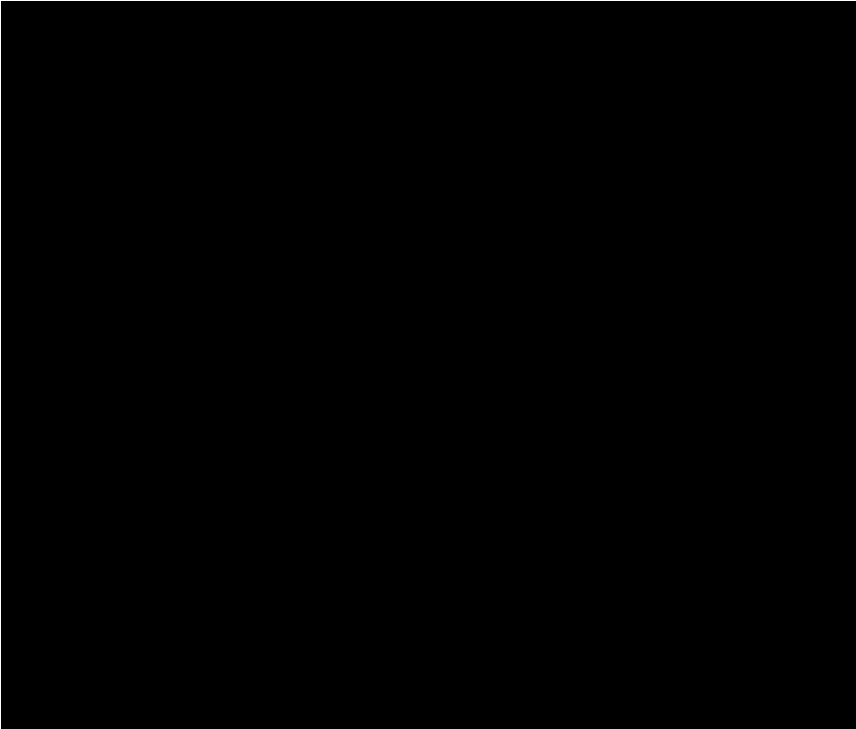
Metro Info

- [30/10 Initiative](#)
- [Policies](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Help Desk](#)
- [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Video by Rich Morallo. Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfgASU6lNuY> NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

Work Crews Begin Project to Widen Sepulveda Pass on I-405

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations / Volunteer Coordinator

(Feb. 16, 2010) Driving at any time on the San Diego Freeway can be at best a harrowing and at worst a scary experience for even the most experienced motorist.

But try driving it when the routinely teeming freeway is closed to traffic at 1:00 a.m. on an otherwise moderately busy Friday morning.

"We're inspecting traffic control, making sure detour cones are placed properly, coordinating with the CHP, and monitoring striping activities," said John Trevino of the Kiewit Pacific Company.

Along with his partner, Zack



Kiewit Pacific Company staff at I-405 closure, from left, John Trevino and Zack Strawn. Below, safety's

Strawn, Trevino was tasked with coordinating work on a stretch of the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project, which calls for the construction of a 10-mile northbound carpool lane on the San Diego Freeway (I-405) between the Santa Monica Freeway (I-10) and the Ventura Freeway (US 101).

This morning, their responsibilities covered activity on a three-quarter mile slice of the freeway from Wilshire Boulevard to just south of the Montana Avenue off-ramp, shifting traffic lanes to the west and establishing a work area along the eastern edge of the freeway.

Traffic lane realignment activities began with sandblasting and erasing traffic lane stripes, laying out the new traffic lane configuration and installing new pavement markers and stripes.

When the realignment work is completed, traffic lanes will be reconfigured from the I-10 to Valley Vista Street in Sherman Oaks.

Construction crews will then be able to start on the installation of sound and retaining walls at several locations, the laying concrete paving and the re-location and installation of displaced underground utilities.

"We'll be striping about 4000 feet," said Trevino, summarizing the progress of the 35-person crew.

"Key to our work is safety," added Strawn, wearing a hard hat, construction boots, safety vest, gloves and protective eyeglasses. "Everybody goes home safe."

The work under Trevino and Strawn's supervision is part of the first phase of a three-year Caltrans/Metro project expected to significantly enhance traffic flow on what is considered to be one of the busiest freeways in the entire country..

And the early morning work seemingly never ends.

The next night Trevino, Strawn and the other team members were at it again, altering the flow of the eerily deserted freeway.

first for the I-405 work crews who begin the nighttime work-day with stretching and flexing exercise routines. [Click here](#) or on image for Rich Morallo's on-the-scene Snapshot.





[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Retiring LAFD Battalion Chief John L. Quintanar

LAFD Battalion Chief Leaves Metro Fire-Life-Safety Post

Announcement of appointment of Battalion Chief Michael Thomas to Rail Safety Coordinator is eminent

(Feb. 16, 2010) John L. Quintanar, Battalion Chief of the Los Angeles City Fire Department assigned to Metro for the last five and a half years, has retired after serving 35 years with the fire department.

Fire Marshal Chief Deputy Jimmy Hill is expected to announce the appointment of Battalion Chief Michael Thomas to the Metro post. A 30-year veteran of the fire department, Thomas most recently served as Battalion 7 Chief overseeing the Lincoln Heights, El Sereno and Boyle Heights communities.

The Battalion Chief assigned to the fire-life safety post at Metro reports to Corporate Safety and provides support to the agency for both construction projects and Bus and Rail Operations.

Quintanar, officially a rail coordinator for Metro, oversees compliance with rail safety codes and standards and has helped initiate safety improvements in the installation and maintenance of fire alarm systems that keep the Metro system safe for the public and employees.

Quintanar was among the first responders in the devastating Metrolink train crash on Sept. 12, 2008.

Because of Quintanar's rail experience, the Los Angeles City Fire Department's unified commander asked Quintanar to maintain communication between Union Pacific and Metrolink.

In that capacity, he also helped coordinate moving two derailed Union Pacific locomotives and one Metrolink locomotive away from the point of impact without impeding the rescue efforts.

"Overall, I think we did an outstanding job," Quintanar said. "I've never been more proud of my city," he said of the multi-agency response. "Egos were left behind in the effort to rescue people."

The next day, he was among the more than 50 experts assigned to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the federal agency charged with investigating train crashes, for the next four days.

The list of experiences and accomplishments in his role as Battalion Chief reflect the role Metro plays as a national leader in fire and life safety on the rails.

Quintanar's Best of Times:

- Relished the opening of the Metro Gold Line Extension – under budget and on time.
- Learned how to operate the Metro heavy rail subway train.
- Disappointed he won't be on the job for the opening of the Exposition Line to Culver City.
- Selected by the California National Guard (9th Civil Support Team) to be the Incident Command of Tunnel exercise in West Virginia – a two-day operation for hazmat release in underground tunnel.
- Arranged to include 18 Metro personnel in a group of 60 first responders selected for Incident Command Training in Oxnard, a integral effort sponsored by the City of Los Angeles, the Metro team were able to inform the response to a subway incident that was included as part of the exercise.
- Worked with Metro Corporate Safety Systems Manager Abdul Zohbi to document all the safety features along the Metro Red Line alignment in a DVD for first responders.

"I have many to thank for a great working relationship with the Metro team," said Quintanar. "Metro should be proud of having so many talented people on the staff and in the field."

Retirement won't be all play and no work for the longtime firefighter, who includes volunteer work, possible future employment and consulting along with more pastoral pursuits, such as traveling and spending precious time with his grand kids.

Chief Quintanar resides in Whittier with wife Anita. The couple have a son and daughter and two grandchildren.

--from Gayle Anderson


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

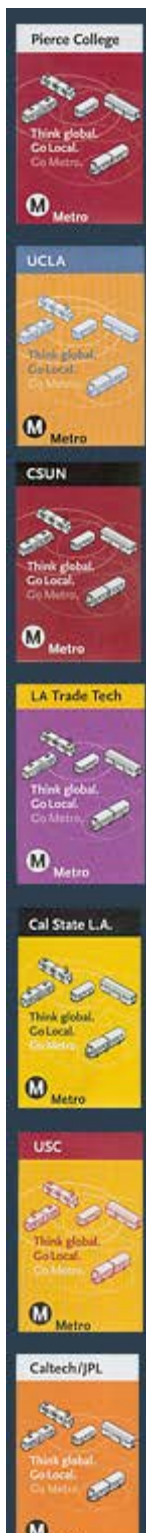
- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

How to get to school with Metro



Metro's Ridership Campaign 'Easy Sell' on College Campuses

(Feb. 18, 2010) A campaign to promote Metro ridership among Los Angeles area colleges and universities appears to be paying off for everyone.

"The response has been very positive so far, and most students are thrilled to find out that they can purchase a TAP pass at reduced fares," said Senior Marketing and Communications Officer Omark Holmes.

Holmes, assisted by a team of Metro staff and volunteers, has visited schools throughout the year, and recently ramped up efforts to spread the word at the Los Angeles Community Colleges District (LACCD) schools just in time for spring registration.

In January 2009, Metro launched a partnership to provide LACCD students with \$15 TAP cards good for the entire semester. These colleges include: Mission, LA Trade Tech, East LA, Southwest, Harbor, LA City College, LA Pierce, Valley and West LA.

Pasadena City College (PCC) just signed up to provide fulltime students with a \$30 pass for the semester.

Other reduced fare programs vary, for example, UCLA has a "Go Bruin" program where the school buys down half the cost of a quarter pass for fulltime students. Rio Hondo College has a pass program that is available for free to all fulltime students, while other campuses offer monthly college/vocational passes at \$36 per month or less.

To further benefit students, Metro created handy pocket guides for many colleges in their area with bus and rail information specific to their school. The guides, developed by Metro's Marketing team, contain maps and a list of area eateries, libraries and other venues of interest.

"The pocket guides are a great introduction to Metro. The schools also have loved being a part of the program and campaign," said Holmes.

"USC, for instance, said that they even provide the guides to their international students at orientations abroad. All of the schools have uploaded electronic versions to their websites," he said.

In addition to distributing the guides at campus events, he said, "We also provide them to each school's transportation department. From there they can be distributed at student



Pocket guides for college students fold out to reveal bus and rail information specific to each school. The pocket guides, developed by Metro's Marketing team, contain maps and a list of area eateries, libraries and other venues of interest.

orientations and at the transportation office or bookstore."

Students are also directed to Metro's website for information specific to their school: metro.net/college

On a cloudy February morning, standing behind a Metro table, volunteer Roberto Burris was hoping the morning drizzle wouldn't keep students away at East Los Angeles College.

"I had about 250 students ask me about I-TAP," he said. " 'How can I get a Metro I-TAP card?' seems to be the most common question."

A day earlier, at Mission College in Sylmar volunteer Bob Thomas also was busy promoting Metro's commuting programs.

"One sophomore told me that she loved I-TAP because it saves her money and is a good incentive to carry 12 units," Thomas said.

Metro's partnership with the colleges benefits everyone because it takes more cars off the road, according to Metro Commute Services Director David Sutton.

"We also want to ease congestion in their respective communities and improve air quality," he said.

--from staff reports

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/ Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Memorial Wall at the reinterment site on the grounds of Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights

Memorial Wall Will Pay Tribute to 'Potter's Field' Remains Uncovered During Gold Line Construction Project

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(Feb. 18, 2010) When Metro contractors began excavating around 1st and Lorena streets during construction of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension in June 2005, they couldn't have imagined that they would be unearthing a potter's field or pauper's cemetery where the remains of 174 people were buried during the late 1800s.

"We had environmental clearance of the area and they had done some research and it was indicated that there was little risk of encountering any human remains," said Metro Principal Environmental Specialist, Carl Ripaldi.

In his position, Ripaldi is routinely responsible for insuring that all state and federal environmental laws are complied with during construction projects.

So when the first human remains were discovered and pieces of a coffin were uncovered the following day, Ripaldi suspected he'd be dealing with more than the usual air, noise and safety concerns during the project.

Now, some 4-1/2 years later, Ripaldi says he believes Metro, with the assistance of contracted archeologists, Metro staff and the community have made every effort "to do the right thing" in handling the matter.

Respect and sensitivity

Yvette Rapose, Community Relations Manager said, "The right thing was to reinter the remains in a manner respectful and sensitive to the findings and in a process that is transparent."

To that end, Rapose notes that in January 2005, Metro invited the public to participate in the process.

During the next four years, Metro's Community Relations team along with Dennis Mori, Project Director led the effort to create an Ad-Hoc Sub Committee of the Review Advisory Committee (RAC) made up of members from the Chinese Historical Society of Southern Calif., the Chinese Benevolent Association, as well as representatives along the Eastside Alignment.

Monthly meetings were held at which the Ad-Hoc Sub Committee developed and forwarded a set of recommendations that included where and how to reinter the remains in as respectful and responsible a manner as possible.

The culmination of the Committee's efforts will take place March 8 when Metro is expected to host an unveiling ceremony to dedicate the re-burial site and memorial wall at the Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights near the Chinese Historic Shrine.

"The newly erected memorial wall aptly pays long-overdue tribute to those whose remains were uncovered in the 100-plus year old potter's field, and their reinterment at Evergreen Cemetery will honor them with a burial that they were once denied," Rapose said.

The remains will be re-interred directly in front of the wall beginning in April.

Commitment pays off in gold

Part of the Ad-Hoc Sub Committee's recommendations was to conduct a next-of-kin outreach campaign to see if any living relatives of these descendants came forward. After placing ads in numerous publications and running cable ads locally and in China, one family responded with a link to a headstone belonging to one T. E. Buzbee, who died of meningitis in 1883 at the age of 17.

Rapose, who noted that a number of other city and community dignitaries will attend the ceremony, met with Gaye Buzbee of Empire, Colo., a great-great niece of the deceased, to invite her and her uncle Donald Buzbee of Anaheim to attend the memorial.

"Engaging in my family's genealogy has paid off in gold," Gaye Buzbee told Rapose during their meeting.

"Gaye Buzbee said she would have never imagined finding T.E. Buzbee and was fascinated to learn about how his life ended in California, so far from home in Empire where he grew up," Rapose explained. "She was overjoyed and couldn't believe the efforts made in paying tribute to her great-great uncle and the other remains. While she appreciates all that was done, she was surprised at the care and commitment Metro showed."

Overall, Metro invested about \$2 million on the wall, furnishing the grave sites and covering the archeology fees and other costs associated with the project.

In the end, Ripaldi notes the irony of the whole process is that before the digging began, Metro had the choice of using a second site where some 11 residences were situated.

"It was either take down these people's homes or build on the chosen site" he said. "So obviously I think we did the right thing so we didn't have to

disturb the people's homes."

"I think the fact that you see that memorial out there -- that's evidence of the success of the whole effort," Ripaldi said. "It was very much a joint effort of a good representation of the community."

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- [Safety](#)
- [Pressroom](#) (web)
- [Ask the CEO](#)
- [CEO Forum](#)
- [Employee Recognition](#)
- [Employee Activities](#)
- [Metro Projects](#)
- [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- [Archives](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Research Center/Library](#)
- [Metro Classifieds](#)
- [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- [30/10 Initiative](#)
- [Policies](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Help Desk](#)
- [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Fallen Metro Transit Police Officer Reed Remembered at Annual Memorial Service

Edward E. Reed is the only Metro Transit Police officer to be killed in the line of duty.



Former Transit Police Officer and now retired Sheriff's Deputy Belinda Jenkins pays her respects at the granite marker placed near the entrance to Metro Headquarters.



From left, LAPD Officer Chris Carson, retired LAPD Sgt. Nicholas Aldana, Sheriff's Deputy Mana Elliott, Metro Transit Security Lt. Senior Rivers Jacques, Metro Transit Security Lt. James Cook, LASD Deputy Alex Tineo, retired Metro Transit Police Officer Michael Singleton, retired Sheriff's Deputy Belinda Jenkins, Metro Transit Security Senior Officer Henry Solis are among friends and colleagues attending the memorial service held every year since 2004.

(Feb. 23, 2010) A solemn gathering of law enforcement officers marked the annual remembrance and memorial service for Edward E. Reed, the only Metro Transit Police officer killed in the line of duty.

Reed, who was only 24 years old, was killed on Feb. 21, 1993, when a drunk driver broad-sided Reed's patrol car and spun the vehicle into a telephone pole. Reed and his partner, patrolling on night shift, were responding to a transit call when the accident occurred in the vicinity of 41st Street and Central Avenue.

Metro Transit Security officers, Transit Services Bureau deputies and Los Angeles Police Department officers joined the memorial service in the Gateway Transit Plaza. Annual services marking Reed's death began in 2004.

Transit Security Lt. James Cook, who spoke briefly at the event, said the memorial service is a way to honor Reed and "reaffirm the cause that he served. He was dedicated to bringing safety and order to our transit system and to protect the most vulnerable in our society."


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

Resources

- ▶ [Safety](#)
- ▶ [Pressroom \(web\)](#)
- ▶ [Ask the CEO](#)
- ▶ [CEO Forum](#)
- ▶ [Employee Recognition](#)
- ▶ [Employee Activities](#)
- ▶ [Metro Projects](#)
- ▶ [Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)
- ▶ [Archives](#)
- ▶ [Events Calendar](#)
- ▶ [Research Center/Library](#)
- ▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)
- ▶ [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Metro Transportation Contract Services Manager Shannon Anderson hands over the keys to brand new 32-foot CNG bus to Veolia Transportation General Manager Hector Fuentes. The bus is the first of 50 low-floor buses purchased with ARRA funds for a fleet operated by Contracted Services. *Photos: Juan Ocampo*

ARRA Funds Put New Buses in Motion for Contract Services Fleet

(Feb. 23, 2010) In a low-keyed but definite celebratory fashion, Metro Transportation Contract Services Manager Shannon Anderson Tuesday delivered the first of 50 CNG buses purchased with ARRA funds to Veolia Transportation, one of three transportation providers under contract with Metro to operate 22 lines throughout Los Angeles County. The buses are designated to replace 33 diesel buses and 17 propane-fueled shuttle buses currently in service within the Contracted Services fleet.

The delivery of the first bus was met with a celebration in the Veolia Division yard, where a gathering of Veolia employees poured over the new bus, inspecting the shiny new engine, technology features and sleek interior.

"The new buses will provide a better quality ride experience for our customers and improve our ability to provide reliable, on-time service," said Anderson. "They also contribute to Metro's goals for maintaining the largest clean-air transit fleet in the nation."

Veolia GM Hector Fuentes took the arrival of the first new bus as proof that the new fleet will soon be up and running. "Mechanics, staff, operators, everybody - we were all really looking forward to this," he said. "We put up

photos, signs, all kinds of messages that the new buses are coming but they didn't really believe it until now. Now we know it's really here."

Anderson thanked Michelle Caldwell, Executive Officer in charge of the Office of Management and Budget, and Countywide Planning Director Gladys Lowe for identifying the bus purchase in an application for ARRA funding, which ultimately rescued the project from dwindling state transportation funds.



Transportation Contract Services Manager Shannon Anderson gives Veolia employees a tour of the new two-door, low-floor CNG bus.

The Board action in April 2009 provided for the purchase of 50 CNG 32-ft buses in the amount of \$24 million. The low-floor, CNG-fueled buses have the same technology features of Metro-operated buses, including an interior video surveillance system. Veolia will receive 35 of the buses. Fifteen buses will go to First Transit, Inc.

Anderson currently oversees about \$40 million in contracts with three transportation providers: Veolia, First Transit, Inc., and Southland Transit, Inc. The companies operate 22 lines with 181 buses ranging in size from 16-passenger vehicles to full-size, 40-foot coaches and account for an annual ridership of some 16 million.

--from Gayle Anderson



[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

- [Safety](#)
- [Pressroom](#) (web)
- [Ask the CEO](#)
- [CEO Forum](#)
- [Employee Recognition](#)
- [Employee Activities](#)
- [Metro Projects](#)
- [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- [Archives](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Research Center/Library](#)
- [Metro Classifieds](#)

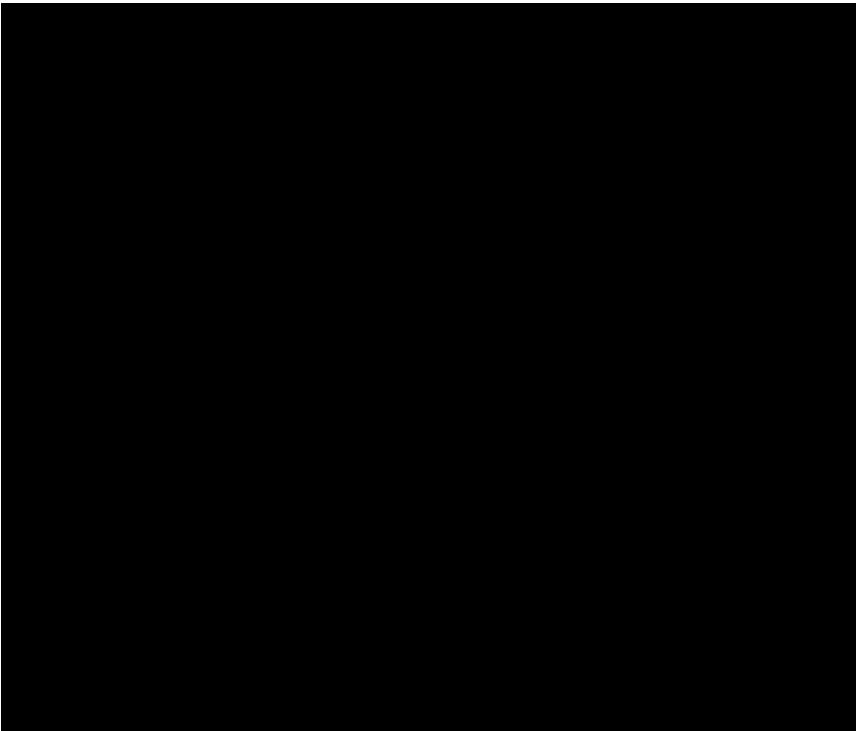
Metro Info

- [30/10 Initiative](#)
- [Policies](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Help Desk](#)
- [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Video by Rich Morallo. Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8gvMAFFtjU> NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

Carson Division Operator Organizes ‘Help for Haiti’ Clothing Drive

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations / Volunteer Coordinator

(Feb. 23, 2010) During a break between driving assignments at Carson Division 18 last month operator Charles Jackson ran into a fellow operator who shared a concern.

"I could already see he had a heavy heart over his thoughts and then my friend asked if something could be done to help Haiti," remarked Jackson.

An ordained minister and 27-year Metro employee, Jackson knew exactly what to do. "I decided to launch a clothing drive to help the Haitian people, especially the children, who were suffering since the January 12 earthquake there," said Jackson.

"I saw the need of the Haitians and I knew I could ask fellow staff to donate clothes in their closets...clean clothes that weren't being used," Jackson added.

Working on his personal time and enlisting the help of others, Jackson set up a barrel with a sign for the clothing drive in the transportation building and passed the word to other Division 18 staff. The barrel soon

filled up again and again. " I would pick up the clothes and deliver them to the Tabernacle of Faith Baptist Church, which will forward the clothes to the Haitian Embassy," said Jackson.

"The response has been just great," said Jackson as he said that 15 large bundles of clothes and 20 boxes of shoes have already been collected.

"The children in Haiti have been affected and their plight has touched our hearts," said Jackson.

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)


[Home](#)
[CEO Hotline](#)
[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[Ask the CEO](#)
[CEO Forum](#)
[Employee Recognition](#)
[Employee Activities](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

[Archives](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/ Library](#)
[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)
[Policies](#)
[Training](#)
[Help Desk](#)
[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)


A roomful of cycling enthusiasts, including city and state representatives, dialogued for more than 90 minutes at Metro's first Bicycle Roundtable. *Photos: Gayle Anderson*

Metro's First Bicycle Roundtable Gets Great Turnout

- Cyclists provide list of concerns, ideas for Metro staff

By Laura Kloth

Staff Writer

(Feb. 25, 2010) Spreading the word about what's available for bicyclists who use transit and creating a list of priorities to improve Metro's countywide Bike Plan topped the list of suggestions made by bike community members during Metro's first Bicycle Roundtable.

A roomful of cycling enthusiasts, including city and state representatives, dialogued for more than 90 minutes at the Feb. 19 meeting, and produced dozens of suggestions to improve cyclists' travel on Metro's bus and rail.

"Bicycling is increasing in popularity and today there is tremendous interest in increasing bicycle usage for commuting purposes in LA," said Doug Failing, Executive Director of Highway Programs/Interim Chief Planning Officer.

By the end of the discussion, Failing who hosted the event at Metro's Gateway Plaza

headquarters, promised to serve as a “strong advocate” for cycling, and offered to meet frequently to follow up on their suggestions.

“I intend to, while I’m here, make bicycles a greater priority of Metro. That’s my commitment to you,” Failing said.

“We need to have better accommodation of bikes on transit as well as formulate policy recommendations for bus and rail planning,” he added, noting that “changes need to balance safety for both cyclists and Metro commuters.”

High marks for Metro

Overall, cyclists gave Metro high marks for its recent outreach effort and requested that frequent meetings be held not only downtown, but also throughout the city, to include input from thousands of cyclists who commute.

Failing touted improvements for cyclists by saying that recently installed signage on the rail lines will improve mobility and safety and that rail cars now have more capacity since seating was removed to accommodate more passengers with bicycles.

Glenn Bailey, who sits on L.A.’s Bicycle Advisory Committee, applauded Metro’s idea to make more room on trains for cyclists, but he said the agency should think about abandoning time restrictions for bike riders since the measure is not being enforced.

He also suggested Metro “step up



Metro Bike Planning Manager Lynne Goldsmith helps keep track of suggestions offered by attending cycling enthusiasts.



Glenn Bailey, who sits on L.A.’s Bicycle Advisory Committee, makes a point in support of commuters on bikes.



Transportation Planning Manager Tony Jusay demonstrates folding bike.

its communication efforts to the community about what's already available for cyclists."

More than a couple of attendees said sharing the road with bus operators was a huge concern for cyclists.

Jim Blisell, who volunteers at a bike kitchen, said "That's really, really important. I've been knocked off the road a couple of times by a bus," he said.

Failing noted that Metro's Operations Central Instruction (OCI) with input from the bike community, has been working toward training bus operators to navigate safely around cyclists. "These training materials raise operator awareness about how to share the road safely with cyclist," he said.

Facilitating usage and access

Metro Bike Planning Manager Lynne Goldsmith shared that Metro is working to update its 2006 Bike plan and noted that the bike map will be updated in 2010.

Goldsmith said Metro recently increased the number of bike lockers to 499 at 38 stations, while other Metro projects in the works include providing an enclosed, electronically-accessed bike rack facility at Hollywood and Vine; conducting a bike share program using Metro properties, as well as other locations; facilitating a bike rider count; and participating in a folding bike project funded by a grant from Caltrans.

"It's a good first-mile, last-mile solution. It makes for seamless transportation," Goldsmith said.

Throughout the discussion Metro staff noted ideas and concerns under various categories at the direction of Sr. Community Relations officer Bronwen Trice who said, "The intent is to get a broad, diverse set of input and ideas without having just one idea dominating the group."

Other attendees included: Michelle Mallory, City of Los Angeles Bicycle Coordinator; Ramon Martinez, LA County Bicycle Coalition Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator and Herbie Huff, a student and member of the Bicycle Coalition at UCLA.