

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[News Releases](#)[Archives](#)[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 April 2010

Thursday, April 29

[Fun! 2010](#) > 5,000 Metro employees, family members and friends attend sixth annual Metro Family Day
[New Badges Here](#) Deadline looms to update dependent/retiree badges with new TAP-empowered chip
[Metro Basketball](#): Div. 3207 B-Ball Pounces RRC while Black Magic Pops Top on Orange Crush
[Obituary](#) Retired Bus Operator Christina Contreras Dies at 58

Tuesday, April 27

[Senior Rank](#) Security Advances Two Transit Security Officers
[Metro Citizens Advisory Council](#) Field Transit Questions at Health Fest
[Metro Basketball](#): Div. 3207 Goes to 5-0; Cellar Dweller Gateway Caves to the RRC

Friday, April 23

[ONLINE](#): metro.net's 30/10 Initiative web page follows Board's unanimous approval of plan to accelerate Measure R projects
[Farewell](#): Employees, Board Say Thanks to Exiting Rail Boss Mike Cannell
[Assembly Speaker Pérez honors](#) Metro's Jennifer Gill for Outstanding Contributions to the Quality of Life in the 46th Assembly District

Tuesday, April 20

[First Responders](#): Fire Inspector Allen Provides Snapshot of Metro's First Responder System
[Metro's Own MJ Fan](#) Invites Others to 2010 'Thriller' Performance
[Basketball League](#): Metro's Black Magic Spins Out Giving Div. 3207 Lead

Thursday, April 15

[Going Global](#): James Rojas at the United Nations Habitat World Forum 5
[More on Rojas](#): The World is a Workshop for Transportation Planner
Metro Employees Learn [About Combating Stress](#) at TCU-hosted Class

Tuesday, April 13

[Fans get on board](#) for launch of Dodger Stadium Express
Developers Break Ground for [new Transit-Oriented Development](#) at Westlake/MacArthur Park Station

Thursday, April 8

[Metro Mentors Celebrate](#) Intern's National GIS Award
[Tennis Team Ready](#) for Bunny Bowl 2010

Tuesday, April 6

[CEO Leahy Details](#) Upcoming Changes for Metro at All Hands Meeting
[Rail Rodeo champs](#) to defend national title in Vancouver June 3
[Street Summit](#): Bike conference informs, inspires Metro's developing bicycle policy and program
[Meet the Primes](#) Attracts 450 small business owners to Metro contracting opportunities

Thursday, April 1

[New Employee Recognition Certificates](#) Now Available Online

[Braille Institute Students Tour](#) Red Line, Get Transit Updates

[Metro Staff, Volunteers](#) Share Job Experiences at Career Fairs

Obituaries:

Services for [Transportation Professional Al Rangel](#) are April 10 in Palmdale.

Services are Friday for [Sr. Service Attendant Ryan Granados](#).

| [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](#)

OBITUARIES

Al Rangel, Retired Commute Services Account Executive

- Services: Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, at Halley-Olsen-Murphy Mortuary, located at 3150 East Palmdale Boulevard, Palmdale, CA 93550. Information: 661.947.4155. [Directions](#)
- Transportation professional joined Metro in July 1, 2002. He left Metro in 2005 to continue his work implementing safety and trip assistance at the Palmdale Transportation Center before retiring in March 2008.
- Obituary submitted by family members



Al Rangel

(April 1, 2010) "Big Al" Rangel passed away on Tuesday, March 30, after a suffering from liver failure.

A native of Los Angeles, Alfonso Rangel, known affectionately to family and his many friends as "Big Al," was born October 29, 1937.

He began working at the age of 15 in a neighborhood liquor store, followed by many years selling wine for Gallo. It was during this time he was encouraged to play golf by his management to increase sales.

Big Al, who became an avid golfer, went on to work for the National Distribution Corp. until joining the alternative transportation

field in 1984.

Despite having only graduated high school, this transportation professional achieved many honors. Big Al was awarded the SCAQMD's "Clean Air Award" in 1997, in addition to countless awards from CTS, SCAG, and Metro over his 21 years with the agencies.

Big Al invested in a home in Palmdale in 2002.

In 2005, Big Al used his political savvy working for three agencies including the City of Palmdale, Antelope Valley Transportation Authority and Antelope Valley AQMD. He thoroughly enjoyed acquiring funding, planning and implementing safety and trip assistance at the Palmdale Transportation Center where he worked until March 2008.

Big Al was the kind of guy who woke up at 4 a.m., drove wherever he was needed, gave blood when asked, financial assistance, never forgot a friend's birthday, willingly volunteered his time and offered

constructive ideas. Big Al also served his country by joining the Army and helping the Palmdale VA open it's doors earlier this year.

Big Al was surrounded by his loved ones in his home at the time of his passing.

Big Al leaves behind his three younger sisters, Esther Davania, Beatrice Topete and Maryellen Falter besides a devoted soulmate, Susan. Also grieving are his three daughters Carol Salazar, Sheryl Coslett, Sharon Sousa and son, Shawn Rangel, and his 13 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Friends are asked to contribute memorabilia of Big Al's achievements or meaningful photos for a memorial album. Please feel free to forward photos or memories in care of Al Rangel at 45005 Camolin Ave., Lancaster, CA 93534.

--Obituary submitted by the family of Al Rangel.



[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](#)

OBITUARIES

Ryan Granados, Division 9 Sr. Service Attendant

- Services: A visitation will be held this Thursday, April 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. and a funeral service at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 2, at White's Funeral Home, located at 404 E. Foothill Blvd., Azusa CA. 91702. The service will be followed by interment at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, 21300 East Via Verde Drive, Covina. Information: 626.334.2921. [Directions](#)

(April 1, 2010) Senior Service Attendant Ryan Granados died due to heart problems on March 28 in Pomona at the age of 45.

Born July 12, 1964, in Montebello, Mr. Granados and his family lived in Pomona.

A 20-year veteran of Metro, Mr. Granados joined Metro in May 1990 as a service attendant and worked at several locations, including Divisions 1, 7, and 10. His final assignment, which he began last December, was at San Gabriel Valley Division 9.

He is survived by Monica Y. Butanda, mother to his five children, Yvette, Ryan Jr., Rudy, Ruben and Rico; mother, Rosie Granados of Monrovia; brothers, Ronald Granados of Hacienda Heights and Rene Granados of Covina; and sister, Regina Granados of North Hollywood.

A visitation will be held this Thursday, April 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. and a funeral service at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 2, at White's Funeral Home. The service will be followed by interment at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, 21300 East Via Verde Drive, Covina.



Ryan Granados





[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](#)

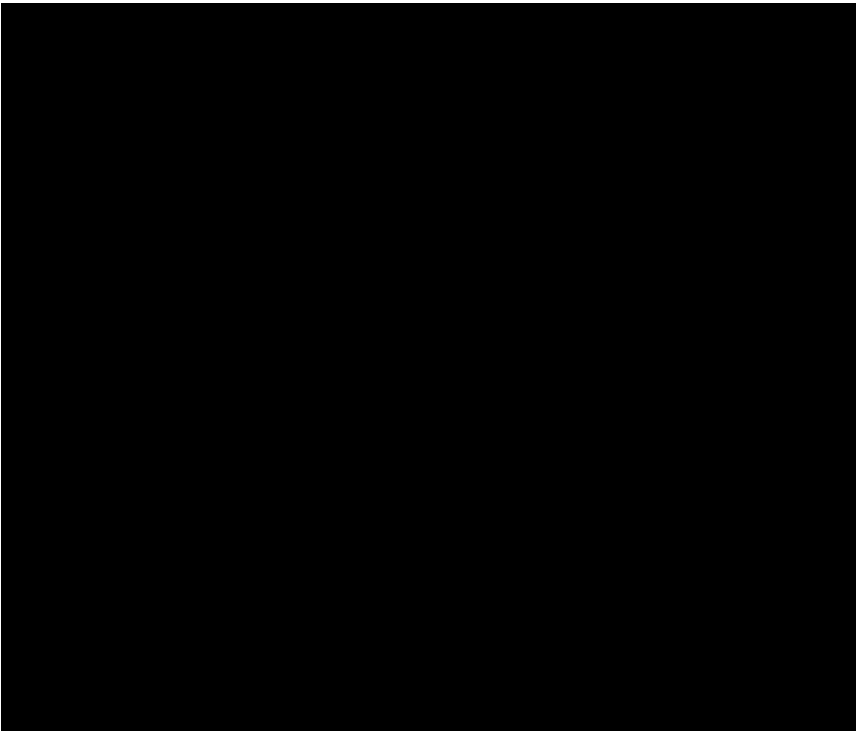
Metro Info

- [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=q9fn68_G0kE&feature=email 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 Staff, Volunteers Share Job Experiences at Career Fairs

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations / Volunteer Coordinator

(April 1, 2010) “Stay in school, graduate and consider a successful career in transportation” was the message presented to scores of students at the March 26 Construction Career Awareness Expo at Southwest College in Los Angeles.

Keith Compton, Acting Diversity and Economic Opportunity Manager, accompanied by Metro staff and volunteers, helped spread the word about working in the transportation field at career fairs in Los Angeles, Manhattan Beach and Wilmington.

Compton worked the Metro tables at Southwest College, providing students with a busload of information and also gave them a tour of one of Metro’s 45-foot NABI bus.

Wayside Senior Administrative Analyst Renee Willis was thrilled to chat with one Southwest College student who told Willis she was related to a Metro employee and remembered attending a “Take Our Sons & Daughter’s to Work Day” at Metro nine years ago.

"Nalia said working for Metro is important as public transit is in high demand during these economic times," Willis said, sharing her experience.

Administrative Intern Ena Macias talked to students about her agency experience, and reminded them that Metro offers a wide variety of administrative positions, in addition to bus and rail careers.

Students took a moment to watch a video of Metro's impressive construction projects and many had plenty of questions for Metro Equipment Maintenance Instructor Andrew Warren, Contract Administration Manager Tommye Williams, Procurement Planning Administrator Sherri Jackson, Sr. Buyer Patricia Ingham, Executive Officer-Project Control & Admin. Brian Bourdreau and Administrative Interns Katie Talbert, Tahira Sadiqa and Dana Odruno.

Rail Transportation Operations Supervisor Lauro Trejo shared his experience telling students, "I took advantage of tuition assistance from OD&T, went to CSU-Dominguez Hills, and graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration."

Also participating in the career event were Jes Godinez, Assistant Manager Equipment Maintenance, Citizens' Advisory Council member Tony Banash, Rail Operator Arlene Mills and Bus Operator Cardell Stewart.

"It's important for us to attend career fairs in the community," said Senior Account Executive Ricky Walker, "We should position ourselves to be the choice of employment for brilliant minds in the future."

Forty companies participated in the event which was organized to serve various colleges, 30 high schools, and local residents.

[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](#)

ADA Compliance Administrator Chip Hazen provides disabled students with important information about traveling on Metro. *Photo by Fred Camino*

Braille Institute Students Tour Red Line, Get Transit Updates

(April 4, 2010) Returning from a tour of the Red Line, students from the Braille Institute of Los Angeles settled into their seats in the Union Station Conference Room to have lunch and learn from Metro ADA Compliance Administrator Chip Hazen how the agency continues to improve transit for disabled patrons.

Along with Hazen, Community Relations Manager Barbara Burns and her staff were on hand March 23 to serve as tour guides for the students on a trek that took them from the Vermont/Santa Monica station to Union Station and the Gateway building.

Hazen told the students that as part of Metro's "Solutions in Sight" public education campaign, the agency has been busily producing three new 30 second spots to improve safety for disabled riders, including one that began production a couple of weeks ago.



Hazen explains Metro's fare vending machines to students and their guides. *Photo by Fred Camino*

The first video, narrated by Wayne Wassell, Transportation Planning Manager in Metro's Service Planning and Development Department, asks passengers to give up their seat for disabled riders and seniors and allow passengers in wheelchairs to board first.

Hazen said this video, which was produced by Metro Communications, will be shown on Transit TV starting in late April.

A planned second spot will focus on Safety Straps for Mobility Devices or tether strap program which provides straps to riders who use wheelchairs which are used by operators to secure their chairs onto buses. Metro began the program in May 2009 with Metro bus operators being trained on how to safely attach the straps and provide assistance to passengers with disabilities.

The third spot will remind operators about the appropriate manner of assisting disabled riders, as well as provide a background on Federal ADA requirements. Both spots are geared directly to operators and will be shown at Metro bus divisions.

Problems solved

When some of the students complained to Hazen about the difficulties in getting a seat aboard Metro buses, Hazen said a newly formed ADA Quality Assurance Committee is working on this issue.



Braille Institute student Latasha Bense tells Hazen sometimes she struggles to get a seat on the bus or train and wheelchairs tend to get greater priority.

Photo: myMetro.net

One solution, he said, may be color-coding sections of the bus and train to insure passengers know those seats are "only" for seniors and riders with disabilities.

One student asked if bus operators were required to announce stops to

prevent blind passengers from missing their stop when the Automated Voice Annunciator (AVA) system wasn't working.

"Yes, they are required," Hazen said.



Students from the Braille Institute toured the Red Line and learned about Metro's ongoing ADA improvements for disabled riders. *Photo by Fred Camino*

In fact, Metro's efforts are far ahead of other agencies with stops called out 85 to 90 percent of the time in LA County, while they called out about 13 percent of the time across the nation, he added. "So we're better than the rest of the nation, but we're looking for 100 percent."

The students said they were very pleased with their visit and when Hazen jokingly asked if he'd given them "too much information," one student cheerily yelled out, "the more the merrier."

Each of the students received a Metro map and Braille flash cards, also developed by Metro Communications, to help them communicate stops to bus operators.

-- from Laura Kloth


[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](#)



Dream Team: From left, Blue Line Fleet Services Manager Brian Rydell, Maintainers Ronnie Burt and Eric Czintos, Operator José Arrias, Maintainer Glen Abraham, Red Line Fleet Services Manager Fred Kan, Maintainer coach Gary Dewater, sr. equipment maintenance instructor and APTA organizing committee member. Not pictured: Operator coach John Johnson, Rail Division assistant manager. Below, Operator Pam Parker-Ehrich is pictured here with Rail Division Transportation Manager Tom Jasmin.

Metro Rail equipment maintenance specialists team of Eric Czintos, Ronnie Burt, and Glen Abraham and coach Gary Dewater will travel to Vancouver to compete in the 18th annual APTA International Rail Rodeo in June. On the transportation side, top-scoring operator Jose Arrias and teammate Pam Parker-Ehrich, along with coach John Johnson, will carry the Metro flag.



Rail Rodeo champs to defend national title in Vancouver June 3

- Will the dream team pull off Metro's first three-peat?

(April 6, 2010) After securing top spots in the 2010 Metro Rail Rodeo held March 27, Metro Rail's dream team will be off to the APTA International Rail Rodeo in Vancouver June 3 to defend their two-years' running national championship title and bring home the gold in a competition that crowns the best rail operations in North America.

Sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the [2010 International Rail Rodeo](#) will be held June 3 through June 6 in Vancouver. More than 20 public transportation systems are expected to compete in the 2010 International Rail Rodeo competition.

The Rail operator team competition measures an operator team's professional customer service and operating skills, including knowledge of safety regulations, train equipment, wayside rules, regulations, and procedures. The Rail maintainer team competition is a test of the maintainer's skills and abilities.

Defending the title will be the champion Metro Rail equipment maintenance specialists team of Eric Czintos, Ronnie Burt, and Glen Abraham, who claimed the local title at the Metro Rail Rodeo held at the Green Line yard March 27.

Veteran competitors and Blue Line maintainers 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. The champion maintainers duo, whose team won first place at the 2007 and 2008 APTA International competitions, teamed up with the Red Line's Abraham in 2003 and 2009.



Best in the land two years straight, champion Metro Rail equipment maintenance specialists team of Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos, and Glen Abraham join high-scoring Green Line Operator José Arrias to defend Metro's solid gold title in Vancouver.

Top operator spot in the local competition was nailed by high-scoring Green Line Operator José Arrias. Competing for the first time in the local competition, Arrias is a 10-year employee. He joined rail operations three years ago after spending his first six years in Bus Operations. Arrias is backed by solid-scoring Gold Line Operator Pam Parker-Ehrich. Veteran Operator Ruben Ramirez, also on the Gold Line roster, placed a close third in the local competition.

Metro is the team to beat for the third year in a row. The Los Angeles Metro championship rail team took top honors at the 2009 American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Rail Rodeo held at the Chicago Transit Authority yard in Skokie, Illinois. The previous year, the Metro team scored the prestigious Rail Transit Team Achievement Award at the 16th annual APTA International Rail Rodeo, held in San Francisco in 2008.

The repeat victory in 2009 made it a solid gold year for Metro, whose championship bus team won top honors in the APTA International Bus Rodeo for the second time in three years. The bus team travels to Cleveland at the end of this month to compete in the 2010 International Bus Rodeo hosted by the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority.

-- from Gayle Anderson

| [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](#)

Employees pack the Board Room to hear CEO address budget concerns and the reorganization underway.

CEO Leahy Details Upcoming Changes for Metro at All Hands Meeting

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(April 6, 2010) Positive that Metro would weather the toughest financial storm it has faced in 80 years, CEO Art Leahy outlined some important changes for the agency when he met with employees during the All Hands meeting April 5.

"There are a few good signs," said Leahy, drawing attention to a slight increase in new jobs for the state, and the inching up of home sales. "Maybe we've bottomed out. That would be a wonderful thing. Meanwhile, we've got a problem right now, that if we don't deal with it, we'll worsen the problem later on."

Leahy answered a handful of questions posed to him by some 80 employees who used the newly created "Ask the CEO" forum on the *MyMetro.net* home page, and who filled out cards made available before the meeting.

Many of the questions pointed to the reduction-in-force (RIF) of some 250 full-time employees required by Metro to reduce a \$180 million deficit.

The CEO noted that his staff had already



CEO Leahy: "A few good signs"

identified some 150 positions, some which would be voluntary severance or retirements, and some that would "unfortunately" be involuntary.

One employee asked if anyone with less than two years at the agency would be laid off automatically, and Leahy directly answered, "No."

Another employee wondered why only non-contract employees were being included in the RIF, and Leahy said the reduction had to comply with union agreements, and noted that if one full-time contract employee was laid off, all part-timers would have to go first and that "would create a huge problem with scheduling and service."

Some of the changes already enacted to streamline the agency creating a single transportation, maintenance and operations department. With those changes, "we now conform to the worldwide model of transportation," Leahy said.

While some service cuts were made in December with more expected in June, Leahy said he would make "extraordinary efforts" to maintain and improve Metro bus and rail to provide better service for the agency's patrons.



CEO Leahy: "We now conform to the worldwide model of transportation."

"I'm going to do my very best on behalf of the agency, my coworkers, and

our passengers to do this as well as possible given the situation that we face," he said.

Another employee asked why Leahy had made so many temporary appointments, in particular the COO and chief planning positions.

"I'm not going to rush to make a permanent appointment especially at the higher level. I want to make sure we have an operations manager, and a chief planner who are able to do what this agency needs, and that may take a little time," Leahy said indicating that recruitment efforts are continuing.

A pair of employees asked questions addressing some problems with Metro's equipment maintenance schedule, and Leahy strongly agreed, indicating that maintenance would become a higher priority. "Deferring maintenance is wrong because it compounds and makes the situation worse later on," he said.

Some questions pointed to employee work schedules with Leahy responding that he couldn't support a 4/10 schedule because most employees had to be present every day to perform their job.

However, he said he could support a 9/80 hour work schedule if employees understood that they would have to be present "if necessary" on days they were normally not scheduled to work.

On the lighter side, Leahy chuckled when one employee asked if he had felt the recent earthquake, and he answered, yes, he was happy that it was a quake and that he wasn't feeling the ill effects of a stroke.



[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](#)

New Employee
Recognition Certificates
Available Online

(March 30, 2010) Metro employees now have a quick and easy method to recognize a fellow employee for any minor or major accomplishment simply by going to the myMetro home page.

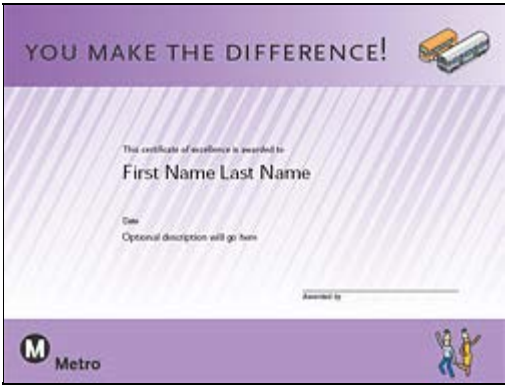
Three new certificates are available under the [Forms Online](#) tag under Administration. The certificates can be easily filled out to show your appreciation under three titles: "A Job Well Done," "Hooray for Teamwork" and "You Make a Difference."

"People's good work is going unrecognized and this gives people an opportunity to commend those who do a great job," says Deputy CEO Paul Taylor.

The new forms of recognition are being provided in addition to the certificates already available under the titles, "Certificate of Appreciation" and "Certificate of Completion" which are typically provided to employees by their superiors.

Any employee can click on the [Forms Online](#) tag and look under *Administration* to access the new forms that offer yet another more casual way of saying "thanks" to someone who's done something nice for another employee, worked well as a team member, or completed a job well done, says Sr. Marketing and Communications Officer Jeff Ringsrud.

Fill out the certificates online and print. Click on the [Forms Online](#) link and look under Administration.



[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](#)

Bike conference informs, inspires Metro's developing bicycle policy and program

- *L. A. Street Summit 2010 - Biking, Walking and Beyond* was held at March 18 and 20 and Occidental College and Los Angeles Trade Tech College

By Jennifer Gill

Community Relations Staff and Cycling Advocate

(April 6, 2010) When a cycling conference of a global magnitude blows into town, it definitely draws the attention of Metro officials, planners and cycling enthusiasts.

Among those attending the two-day confab at dual sites was Metro's interim Chief Planning Officer Doug Failing, a transportation official on the state and regional levels who is taking the lead in developing a regional bicycling policy.

The Metro contingent also included Transportation, Development and Implementation Executive Officer Diego Cardoso, who participated in a panel workshop discussing local planning issues related to bicycling and walking.

Transportation Planner Lynne Goldsmith, who manages Metro's own Bike Program, gave a presentation on bikes and public transportation. Other planning staff that attended included Tony Jusay, Nate Baird, Cory Zelmer, Steve Brye and Fulgene Asuncion.

The speakers and workshops reflected a new, broad, and diverse agenda that involved sidewalk politics, street design, parking, taxi justice, creating car-free streets or places where people hungry for transformation can engage in discussion and take action, said Goldsmith.

As reported in local blogs, the L. A. Street Summit kicked off with a rousing keynote address and slide show by the groundbreaking New York City DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Kahn. At Occidental College, Sadik-



New York City DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Kahn packed the house with a rousing presentation on how to re-purpose existing streets to make room for uses other than cars. Below, Bike Program Manager Lynne Goldsmith engages Dorothy Le of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition in a car-free discussion.



Kahn packed the house with a rousing presentation on how to re-purpose existing streets to make room for uses other than cars.



Commentary and short video posted on LA.STREETSBLOG.ORG summarized the dynamics of bicycle planning.

Sadik-Kahn has overseen an unprecedented transformation of streets in New York City. After generations of auto-centric transportation planning, New York City streets are being re-purposed to move and connect people rather than just cars.

She has “pedestrianized” Time Square and overseen construction projects to the tune of 200 miles of bike facilities in just 2 years—all of which are redefining streets as public places for people to inhabit in better ways. Sadik-Kahn has worked on transit issues as a Senior Vice President of Parson Brinckerhoff, a leading international engineering firm.

[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](#)

Director Richard Katz addresses small business owners in packed Board Room interested in contracting opportunities for upcoming Metro projects.

'Meet the Primes' Attracts 450 Small Business Owners to Metro Contracting Opportunities

(April 6, 2010) Some 24 top prime contractors and over 450 small business owners filled the Metro board room for the second annual "Meet the Primes" event held in the first quarter of this year. Metro Strategic Business Unit (SBU) chiefs and officials were in attendance to discuss upcoming Metro projects and field questions from attendees.

Sponsored by the Metro Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department (DEOD) and the Transportation Business Advisory Council (TBAC), "Meet the Primes" is a unique opportunity for small businesses and prime contractors to initiate a relationship building process. The strategy is for small businesses to have face time with primes, to pitch their service or product and ultimately become

Scenes from 'Meet the Primes' 1) CEO Art Leahy welcomes business owners 2) Metro officials Doug Failing, Paul Taylor and Bruce Feerer participate 3) DEO Linda Wright at the podium 4) Small business owners meet contractors at interview tables 5) DEOD Manager Keith Compton in impromptu conference with business leaders 6) Keiwi Corporation opportunities draw interest 7) Prime and sub-contractors mingle in Metro environment inspired by the prospects of contracting opportunities.



part of a prime's team, resource or become a prime themselves.

Director Richard Katz, CEO Art Leahy, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Paul Taylor, Deputy Executive Officer Linda Wright and Metro SBU Chiefs, addressed the small business owners in the board room while the prime contractors set up interview stations in the lobby and nearby meeting rooms.

The event allowed small business owners the opportunity to meet with a number of top prime contractors and share their product or service, professional experience, client list and current projects.

"We worked hard to get top notch contractors to participate in our event. The contractors who participated are considered leaders in their industry," said Keith Compton, Manager, DEOD Finance, Systems and Outreach. "We hope the large and small businesses really took advantage of this opportunity."

"This is our second Meet the Primes event and we've brought even more small business owners and major prime contractors together," said Sherman Gay, Small Business Outreach Officer who conducts monthly workshops and advises firms on how to do business with Metro.

Gay reported an increase of small business owners attending the monthly workshops due to the event. -- 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](#)



Administrative Intern "Owen" Bin Mo took top honors in 2010 GIS-T Student Paper Contest presented by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials ([AASHTO](#)). The national award is designed to encourage university students to develop solutions to current GIS-T issues.

Metro Mentors Celebrate Intern's National GIS Award

System Analysis intern "Owen" Bin Mo one of two graduate students from across the nation chosen for national transportation award.

(April 8, 2010) At the beginning of his tour working for Metro's System Analysis & Research Department, Administrative Intern "Owen" Bin Mo expected to learn a great deal about Metro's growing transportation system.

So intrigued by Metro's goal of creating the best public transportation system in the country, the Cal State LA grad student decided to conduct his own study of methods to enhance the system.

Mo began mulling over ideas like how far commuters are willing to walk to use public transportation, and how much rail will be needed to serve the burgeoning Los Angeles area in coming years.

Mo put his ideas in a paper called, "*GIS Network Analysis for Finding the Potential Metro Rail Ridership by Access Modes in Los Angeles County*".

He fine-tuned his work with input from university professors and his Metro supervisor, DEO of Countywide Planning and Development Chaushie Chu. He also consulted with several mentors including Spatial Analysis Project Leader Jesse Simon and Transportation Planning Managers Falan Guan, Paul Burke and Stewart Chesler.



From left, DEO of Countywide Planning and Development Chaushie Chu, Transportation Planning Manager Falan Guan and Spatial Analysis Project Leader Jesse Simon inspired Administrative Intern "Owen" Bin Mo's award-winning paper. *Photos by gayle anderson*

Their input apparently paid off.

Mo learned recently that he would be receiving an award from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials ([AASHTO](#)). He has also been invited to present his paper in Charleston, W. Va. on April 12.

"I was lucky because I got so much great information from my professors and insightful input from people here at Metro," Mo said.

Chu advised Mo on modeling and planning while Simon provided input on ridership and statistics, while Guan provided insight on map cartography. Others such as Burke, Chesler and Transportation Planner Doreen Morrissey reviewed his work and offered many helpful comments.

The 30-plus page paper was developed with U.S. Census data and includes complex modeling scenarios complete with intricate maps, tables and transportation predictions.



Check it out: A visual version of the GIS presentation by Owen Bin Mo is posted on You Tube. Not hooked up to You Tube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnh6dZILGP8> 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

AASHTO Representative Raquel Wright congratulated Mo for his win and said his paper stood out among other national entries. The paper was reviewed by a four-person committee where their "discussion reflected on each paper's topic and its significance to current transportation problems."

In addition to his award, Mo will be receiving a \$500 check from AASHTO that he plans to use for a new suit and travel expenses for his upcoming presentation.

A native of China, Mo will graduate this year from CSULA with a master's in GIS and Transportation Planning.

"No matter where I end up, I will always remember my experience and all the people here at Metro. This place has meant so much to me," he said, adding he is "grateful for the assistance so many people were willing to provide."

-- from Laura Kloth



[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](#)



Contract Administrator Bassar "Base" Richardson and Engineer Thomas Traylor, back row, at left, plan to lead Metro's Tennis Team through this year's thrilling Bunny Bowl event. The team came in fourth in the 2009 Bunny Bowl Tournament.

Metro Tennis Team Ready for Bunny Bowl 2010

(April 8, 2010) They may not be Wimbledon bound, but Metro's own tennis team will see if a year's worth of practice will pay off as the team competes in the 2010 Bunny Bowl Tournament in El Monte.

And even if they don't come in first, "everybody's a winner" when they play sports, says Bunny Bowl Organizer Daphne Delores.

"Now is the time to demonstrate our polished skills and show the world what we are made of," said Metro Contract Administrator Bassar "Base" Richardson, who pairs with Metro Engineer Thomas Traylor, to lead the team.

Encouraging his team with a spirited discourse that sounds as if it was plucked from Shakespeare's *Henry V*, Richardson encourages his players to "sharpen your swords and shine your shields because the battle for the Kings Royal Tennis Trophy will be held."

The Bunny Bowl event has been held for 29 years as a "fun" social event and that when it was started players were actually encouraged to participate in costume, Delores explains.

Dressing up isn't encouraged anymore. "It's just to get people into the

atmosphere of enjoying tennis” she said.

The public is invited to watch the tournament play on 11 courts with the first serve scheduled for 3pm, Sunday April 11 at the Whittier Narrows Tennis Center, 1201 Potrero Ave. in El Monte.

Those taking on Metro this year include teams from Boeing, JPL-Caltech, Northrop Grumman, and So. Cal Edison.



Metro team roster includes:

Singles:

- Patrick Astredo
- George Branch
- Martin Manssourian
- Russell Higgins

Doubles:

- Alan Gee - Richard Bonino
- Al Martinez - Mark Mahoney
- Don Seawell - Ruben Madrid
- Base Richardson - Don Riley
- Steve Moya - Mike Lopez\
- Thomas Traylor - Ray Robinson

--from Laura Kloth

[links to intranet homepage](#)
[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](#)


First Dodger Stadium Express bus arrives to transport Dodger fans to season opener. More than 1,400 fans took advantage of the new service. *Photo: Gayle Anderson*

Fans get on board for launch of Dodger Stadium Express

- **Win-Win Situation:** The Dodgers took a 9-5 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks at the home opener on Tuesday at Dodger Stadium and the Dodger Stadium Express scored 2,900 boardings on 68 trips between the ballpark and Union Station.

(April 13, 2010) Opening day at Dodger Stadium drew the usual large crowds but, today, more than 1,400 fans were transported to the Dodgers' home opener aboard the Dodger Stadium Express. Riders started lining up before 11 a.m., more than two hours before game time, reported Roman Alarcon, interim executive director, transportation.

The pre-game ridership, estimated to number more than 1,400 Dodger fans, filled 14 buses, two of which were 60-foot articulated buses from Division 10. The two articulated buses wrapped the transport and delivered the last two loads of passengers right at game time, said Contract Services Manager Shannon Anderson.

By game's end, the Dodger Stadium Express racked up some 2,900 boardings on 68 trips, reported Mike Greenwood, DEO, Operations. The express, operated by Southland Transit, one of Metro's contract services providers, provided 11 buses to transport fans leaving Dodger Stadium with Division 10 adding four 60-footers to manage the exodus.

"The crowds were gone within 30 minutes of the last out, but we operated several more trips over the next 30 minutes to carry stragglers," said Greenwood.



All aboard for Dodgertown: Fans board parade of steadily arriving buses to get to Dodger Stadium in plenty of time for the season opener. *Photos: Luis Inzunza*



From now on through to the end of baseball season, Dodger fans will be able to use their game ticket to ride the Dodger Stadium Express to and from Union Station. The service leaves Union Station every 10 minutes, starting 90 minutes before game time for all home games.

Schedulers estimate that the service will ordinarily use six to nine buses to carry riders to and from regular home games.

The Dodger Stadium Express is a joint demonstration project made possible by Clean Transportation Funding from the Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) and the support of Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich, who led the efforts to fund the project.

The service was promoted heavily by Metro through on-board materials, notices in Metro Briefs ads and on radio, Transit TV, the website and through the media, said Warren Morse, deputy executive officer in charge of marketing. The Dodgers are co-marketing the service through in-stadium announcements and e-blasts to ticket holders, he said.

KCAL Channel 9 covered the launch of the Dodger Stadium Express and interviewed many fans taking the express service to the season opener, including an appreciative contingent from Ojai who traveled to Union Station via Amtrak. The segment will be included in KCAL's pre-game show on Friday night.

-- from staff reports

| [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](#)

Photo by Luis Inzunza

Metro, developers McCormack Baron Salazar, Los Angeles Housing Partnership and Polis Builders begin construction on new affordable, mixed-income Transit-Oriented Development adjacent to the Westlake/MacArthur Park Metro Rail Station. Among the officials pictured here are, CRA/LA Project Manager Leslie Lambert (second from left), Metro Board Chairman Ara Najarian, fourth from left, followed by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles City Councilman Ed Reyes, and, second from right, Roger Moliere, Chief, Real Property Management and Development for Metro.

Developers Break Ground on new Transit-Oriented Development at Westlake/MacArthur Park Station

- **Mixed-use development is partially funded by Federal Stimulus Funds**

(April 13, 2010) Metro officials, civic leaders and developers launched the start of construction of a new mixed-income, mixed-use, transit-oriented development adjacent to the Westlake/MacArthur Park Metro Rail Station at a ground-breaking ceremony held Monday.

The project is part of Metro's Joint Development Program, which seeks to secure the most appropriate private and/or public sector development on Metro-owned property at and adjacent to transit stations and corridors.

Metro has partnered with developers McCormack Baron Salazar, the Los Angeles Housing Partnership and Polis Builders to develop the mixed-use project.

"We at Metro are looking forward to adding the Westlake/MacArthur Park project to our existing portfolio of transit-oriented development along the Metro Rail system," said Roger Moliere, Chief, Real Property Management and Development for Metro. "Our hope is that this new development, like our others, will provide our customers with new opportunities to live, work and play by Metro."



Photo by Jennifer Gill

MacArthur Park vista reveals bucolic views of lake and skyline. Below, rendering of MacArthur Park Apartments, one block west of the entrance to the Westlake/MacArthur Park Metro Rail Station, incorporates the unique cityscape of this historic neighborhood.

Aerial perspective rendering courtesy of McCormack Baron Salazar



The Westlake/MacArthur Park neighborhood, located just two miles west of Downtown Los Angeles, has seen housing costs rise and quality affordable housing diminish. The neighborhood is one of the most densely populated in the city with a significant lower income population. The majority of residents are recent immigrants from Central America, who rely heavily on public transportation.

Phase I, the initial phase of a two-phased development effort, will contain 90 units of affordable rental housing above approximately 15,000 square feet of ground floor retail space and residential, retail and commuter parking. The commuter parking will consist of 100 spaces, partially funded by Metro, that are intended for use by Metro Rail commuters. The total development costs for Phase I is approximately \$45 million. The second phase of the development will be constructed directly over the Metro Rail station entrance, and will be comprised of 82 affordable housing units, a retail component and associated parking.

In addition to offering residents the convenience of multiple modes of public transit, Phase I will be a “green” design meeting LEED Silver requirements that include using recycled materials, high energy efficient heat and cooling systems and dual glazed windows, water saving fixtures, non-toxic paints and materials, and R-19 insulation. Market rate amenities such as washer and dryer, dishwasher, central air and heat, free high speed internet are standard in each unit. In addition, each household will receive a free monthly Metro pass.

This development is funded by a unique blend of Low Income Tax Credit, New Market Tax Credits, tax-exempt bonds, Metro funds and ARRA funds, said Moliere.

--from Dave Sotero

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

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

Resources

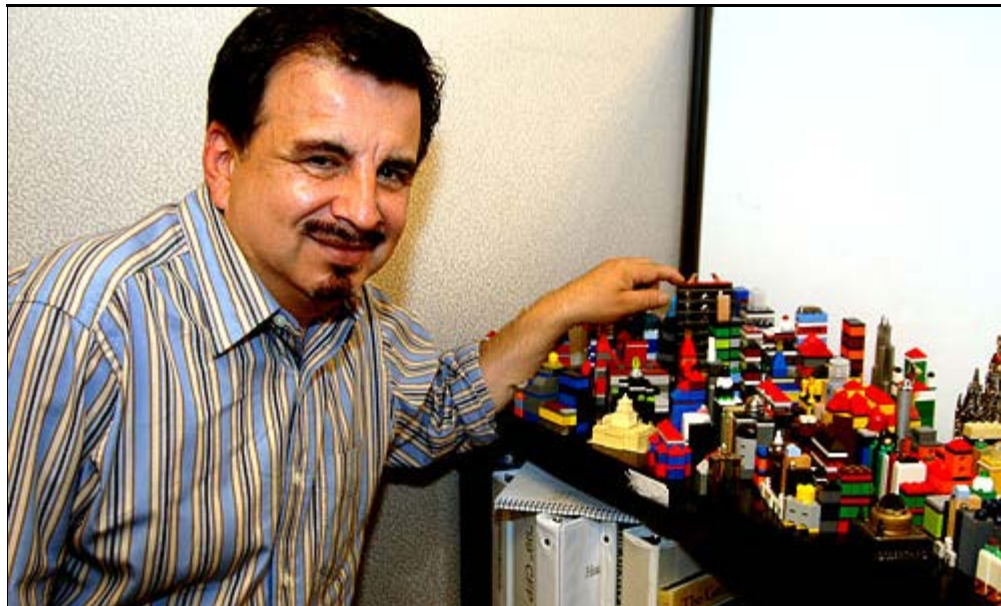
[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/ Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

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

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

James Rojas, a transportation planning manager, takes his interactive planning exhibit on the road and to the people. *Photo by Ned Racine.*

The World is a Workshop for Transportation Planner James Rojas

- **Going Global:** [James Rojas at the United Nations World Urban Forum](#)

By Michael D. White
Staff Writer

(April 15, 2010) Inspiration can be found in many places including, it seems, in a pile of stuff that looks like the debris at the bottom of a little boy's toy chest.

Multicolored wood blocks and dowels of all sizes and shapes, Lego blocks, bottle caps, the occasional "missing" rocket ship part or wooden train track, plastic animals, miniature cars - all-in-all, a veritable jumble of possibilities. Or at least that's how Metro Transportation Planning Manager James Rojas sees it.

"The stuff is beautiful," said Rojas. How and, perhaps more to the point, why? "Because there are infinite possibilities in using various day-to-day materials that people are familiar with to get them involved in the process of planning the communities they live in."

A 13-year employee with Metro, Rojas has worked as a community volunteer around the country gaining both national and international acclaim and drawn considerable press coverage for devising a genuinely unique way to stimulate an interest on the part of ordinary citizens in the somewhat arcane task of urban planning.

Several years ago, he came up with the idea of having people –

housewives and community activists, business executives, teachers, and professionals – gather in a workshop setting to discuss ideas and sit down together at a table and, in effect, tap into their inner Disney by utilizing the “jumble” to create a mock-up of their model urban community.

They map out everything from the location of streets, parks, bridges, pedestrian walkways and transit lines to shopping malls, recreational facilities, plazas, theatres and residential districts.

Rojas calls it “Place It.”

His interactive planning art was featured at the United Nations World Habitat Forum 5 in March held in Brazil.

“People become very enthused when they feel they are taking part in creating the positive environment they want to live in,” said Rojas, an L.A. native and U.S. Army veteran who holds a master’s degree in city planning from MIT in Boston.

An artist by both inclination and training, Rojas is well-known in Los Angeles design community having founded the LATino Urban Forum, a non-profit group that “informs and engages” citizens in the urban planning process, and Gallery 727, located in the downtown Arts District.

Los Angeles “is the perfect region to utilize this type of approach because it’s, probably, the most culturally and ethnically diverse area in the entire country,” he said. “The diversity lends itself to a multiplicity of ideas that simply wouldn’t be available in a more homogeneous region. The fact that there are so many people here from so many different places is a genuine advantage.”

The process, he said, is about the “pride that can be had in feeling that we own the communities we live and work in.”

The whole “Place It” idea, said Rojas, “is about giving people the chance to place themselves in the future and set a goal to strive for in a comfortable environment that energizes them about taking an active role in the well-being of their own communities.

Urban planning “should be more than just boring charts, complicated maps and contentious meetings,” he said. “This puts people in the equation.”

[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 Basketball League News

Metro’s Black Magic Spins Out Giving Div. 3207 Lead

- Schedule of Games: [PDF](#)

(April 15, 2010) The undefeated Div. 3207 team met the Black Magic in the Metro round-ball Game of the Week April 11.

From the first jump ball, it looked like a Div. 3207 blowout with the league leader leading at the half by 11 points at 28-17. But the Black Magic seemed about to pull the proverbial rabbit out of a hat by pulling to within 6 points of the Div. 3207 crew with 7 min left in the game.

Feeling the heat with the score at 40 – 34, the tough Div. 3207 team put the clamps on the Black Magic surge and leaving no doubt that it would take more than sleight of hand to save the day.

The final buzzer sounded with Div. 3207 holding on to its league lead by a final score of 47-36 in what proved to be their hardest-fought game so far this season.

Div. 3207’s “Mr. Inside” aka Melvin Ford led the way with 16 points with Tim “Mr. Outside” Williams unveiling a dizzying array of jumpers good for 12 points. Eddie “Mad



TOS Richard Wright, West Hollywood Division Instructor, Transportation, is the Metro Basketball League Commissioner.

League Standings as of 4/15	
Div 3207	4-0
Orange Crush	3-2
RRC	2-2
Black Magic	1-2
Gateway	0-4



TEAM: Div. 3207



TEAM: RRC

Bomber" Corbin and Prince Mitchell chipped in with 6 points each and Jason Tims aced 5.

The Black Magic's worthy effort was spearheaded by Ruben Rodriguez who led the way with a respectable 13 points. Dayton Hernandez racked-up 12 points with 5 each from Sid "The Kid" Mitchell and Troynell Williams.

The week's second match-up saw the Orange Crush defeating the cellar-dwelling Gateway five 52-40. The Crush's were led by Chris Robinson, who hooped an eye-opening 23 points. Curtis Shelby and Aasia Betts added 9 and 7 points, respectively, to the cause.

Raul Gomez scored 11 points for Gateway with Silhan Jin sinking 10 and Jesus Arrayaler sending 9 down the spout. Respectable tallies, for sure, but all for naught as the loss keeps Gateway win-less with three games left in the season.

On April 18, Gateway will take on Div. 3207, while and the Black Magic will face the RRC and the Orange Crush takes a bye.

All games are played at the Hawthorne High School gym with tip-off time scheduled for 5 p.m.

-- from Richard Wright

Richard Wright
Director/Commissioner
(323) 449-3604 – cell
(310) 854-3142 – work
Email: rwmmentor@att.net / wright@metro.net



TEAM: Orange Crush



TEAM: Gateway

[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](#)

Kaiser
Permanente
Health
Educator
Elvira Garay
gives
employees
the latest
information
about stress
and ways to
cope with it.

*Photo by
Michael D.
White*

Metro Employees Learn About Combating Stress at TCU-Hosted Class

(April 15, 2010) There are two steps in dealing with stress, according to Kaiser Permanente Health Educator Elvira Garay.

The first is knowing its symptoms and learning how to define it, while the second is knowing that once you've identified it, you have to learn to manage it or potentially face a chronic illness that could lead to an early death.

That's the message she conveyed to a roomful of Metro employees at a recent Transportation Communications Union (TCU)-sponsored stress management class at the Gateway building.

The dictionary definition of stress describes "a physical, chemical, or emotional factor that causes bodily or mental tension and may be a factor in disease causation," but Garay simplified it, saying stress is "anything that becomes a threat to an otherwise stable life."

Yoga Instructor Jillian Szafranski encourages employees, even those who've never tried yoga, to check out the class she teaches in the Gateway Building. The first class is free with a flyer, and then \$9 per session. Click [here](#) or on image to download flyer.



When Garay asked employees to provide their own definition of stress, it took them several minutes to respond with one woman responding that, "I think stress is anything that makes me nervous."

In dealing with stress, Garay said, it's important to know the difference between "short term" indicators like long lines at the grocery store and traffic, and "long term" stress like chronic conditions and job loss.

Stress attacks the central, adrenal and cardiovascular systems, and wreaks havoc on the immune system, and the fight-or-flight hormones necessary to survive are released suddenly throughout the body, she explained.

"If you don't release that energy at some point, your risk of heart disease is going through the roof because all these changes are happening," she said. "You have an increased heart rate, increased blood pressure. Most of us cannot walk around with an accelerated heart rate, and blood pressure for a long period of time."

Ineffective ways of dealing with stress exacerbate chronic conditions, Garay added. "We're eating, drinking, and smoking our stress."



PacifiCare Rep Steven Zahigian distributes information to employees who attended the TCU sponsored stress class.

*Photo by
Michael D. White*

She talked employees through a deep breathing exercise and gave them a mini quiz to help determine their stress levels and was joined by yoga instructor Jillian Szafranski, who invited employees to a yoga class taught twice a week during lunch at the Gateway building.

The class provides stress relief for employees regardless of their physical background, said Szafranski. In fact, she noted that 95 percent of her students had never attended a yoga class before.

Garay concluded the class by encouraging employees to look for ways to reduce stress levels like exercise and deep breathing, and noted that Kaiser provides classes for everyone including nonmembers.

"You are in control over how you respond to stressors in your life at work or at home," she said.

--from Laura Kloth

[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](#)

Interactive exhibit by James Rojas frames presentation of Adolfo Carrión, Director of the White House Office on Urban Affairs and Deputy Assistant to the President, at United Nations forum.
Photos courtesy of James Rojas

United Nations Habitat World Urban Forum 5: The Right to the City - Bridging the Urban Divide

• Planner James Rojas goes global with interactive exhibit

By James Rojas

(April 15, 2010) The United Nations Habitat World Urban Forum (WUF) was held in Rio de Janeiro March 22-26. The theme of this fifth biannual conference was "The Right to the City: Bridging the Urban Divide." It was a privilege and honor to represent the United States at this world conference on cities.

The Forum was established by the United Nations in 2002 to examine urgent problems facing the world today. The conference focused on rapid urbanization and its impact on cities, economies, climate change, and policies. It

brought together over 17,000 participants including government leaders, ministers, mayors, diplomats, regional and international associations, community groups, and practitioners.

The US delegation was comprised of high-level staff from the White House Office of Urban Affairs, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the State Department, the United States Agency for International

myMetro.net: [About James Rojas](#)

For more information, visit www.unhabitat.org/wuf

Development, and the United States Department of Agriculture. This year, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan led the US delegation.

As part of the WUF conference, there was an exhibition area where various nations, public institutions, and non-government organizations could set up booths to showcase their work.

HUD staff invited me to participate in the conference's USA Exhibition booth. This booth served as a gathering area for host speakers from the US Delegation, which allowed me to meet many of the high-ranking staff.

The USA booth featured an interactive model of a car-free Rio. HUD recognized my innovative approach to engage, empower, and excite the general public about sustainable urban planning. HUD believed that this public participation method is a useful educational tool providing community residents the opportunity to envision the urban planning process and solve urban problems.

The model – along with a life-size poster of President Obama – made our booth particularly playful. My model was 30 inches wide and six feet long and was placed on a 40-inch-high table, which made it very accessible to the public. The model was a representation of Rio's beaches, mountains and street grid.

Hundreds of participants visited the US booth daily. Many people were fascinated by the vibrant colors, recycled materials and the purpose of the interactive model. Once attendees were aware that they could touch the model, many became fascinated with rearranging it. This allowed me to engage with attendees from all over the world ranging from heads-of-state to casual passers-by.

Anna Tibajuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, was fascinated by the model. I explained to her how it breaks down the planning process into clearly understandable parts. Her response was to remove some of the favelas lining the hillside areas of the model and replace it with new housing.

The United States Ambassador to Brazil, Clifford Sobel was interested in the interactive model and thought it was an important tool for engaging communities in the planning process.

Maria Otero, State Department, Undersecretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs was happy to see the model. Mercedes M. Márquez, Assistant Secretary Community Planning and Development, Housing and Urban Development also former general manager of the City of Los Angeles Housing Department enjoyed the model as well.

Many people worked diligently making modification to the model. Two guys from Norway turned every building into one story while a German guy attempted to build the highest building. An Indian gentleman said he is going to create a model like this back home for his children. A group of Afghans were fascinated by this process and spoke to me in broken English as to how I could help them back home.

A young Polish couple thought this would be a great way to revise Warsaw. A young boy from The Congo played with the model for over an hour, making changes big and small model. Still others demand more open space and parks in the model. Dozens of Brazilians were very happy that I made their fair city car free since traffic is a problem in Rio.

My conclusion from the hundreds of responses received about the model was that people from all walks of life from all over the world have the same values toward the cities. They want decent housing, public transportation, open space and a sustainable future for their communities.

The interactive car-free Rio model was a big success because it illustrated how, given the right tools, we can all work together to shape the future of cities.

| [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](#)

Metro’s Own MJ Fan Invites Others to 2010 ‘Thriller’ Performance

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations / Volunteer Coordinator

(April 20, 2010) Metro Accident Investigator Specialist Chere Craig says she’s been a Michael Jackson fan since she was 3.

"I love all of his songs and I actually dressed up like MJ at my Senior After Prom," says Craig.



Chere Craig leads practice sessions at Gateway building. Rehearsals begin May 7.

So taken by the artist, Craig says she’s collected a busload of Jackson’s albums, cassettes, CDs and videos dating back to 1971. Craig even met her icon in 1983 during a visit to Disneyland.

To pay tribute to Jackson, who died last year, Craig plans to join thousands of other fans who plan to step through Jackson’s world-famous ‘Thriller’ song.

Aptly dubbed ‘Thrill the World,’ the world-wide phenomenon began four years ago and asks participants to perform simultaneously through the song that became a cult-video favorite.

"It is so beautiful to see people of all ages and backgrounds coming together to dance to MJ’s song," Craig says.

Last year, she recalled, "There were about 50,000 people dancing and celebrating around the world with about 6,000 of us right here at LA Live."

The goal this year "is to have 15,000 people grind and step to the beat of Thriller," Craig said, inviting Metro staff and their families and friends to join her on Saturday, October 23.

Practice sessions for the five-minute dance can be set up to teach newcomers and to reunite with Thriller "veterans."

Craig believes practicing and getting ready for the big dance in October is a great way to get fit.

"It's almost like aerobics and you can lose weight," she said. "I will continue to do this every year for many years to come."

[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](#)

LA City Fire Department Inspector Shane Allen and Battalion Chief Michael Thomas rely on Metro's high-tech First Responder System to keep employees and patrons safe. *Photo by Michael D. White*

Fire Inspector Allen Provides Snapshot of Metro's First Responder System

By Michael D. White
Staff Writer

(April 20, 2010) Simply being the fastest to the scene during an emergency isn't enough.

It's "arriving on site armed with as much information as you can gather about what occurred that can make the difference," says Los Angeles City Fire Department Inspector Shane Allen.

Allen has spent the last five years of his 30-year LAFD career as half of the team that serves as the emergency/safety liaison between the department and Metro.

Joined by LAFD Battalion Chief Michael Thomas, Allen oversees Metro's "first responder" system, a high-tech alarm array designed to provide instant information on any emergency that might occur on Metro's underground rail network.

"The system [which was activated with the start-up of the Metro Red Line in 1990] detects emergency situations, responds accordingly and initiates whatever plans are needed to handle the situation. The information is channeled through the Metro ROC and then onto the fire department," said Allen, who stressed that specific details of the system – the first and most widely deployed of its kind in the country – are, for obvious reasons, "kept under wraps."

There are more than two dozen emergency scenarios – anything from an equipment fire or medical incident such as a heart attack to a chemical

spill, a natural incident such as an earthquake or a terrorist act – that have been dissected by Allen, Thomas and their counterparts in Metro’s bus and rail operations and safety departments.

Each of those types of “incidents” require a specific response from the fire department, he said, and that’s where assembling all of the available information on what happened, where it happened and how it happened “is the critical first step in being able to respond appropriately.”

Alluding to the recently completed Gold Line Eastside Extension, Allen said that “one of the really useful things we’ve been able to do is to interface with the CCTV cameras from any location on the alignment. We can then make a visual appraisal of an incident at, say, the Soto Station by tapping into the camera system at the Mariachi Station.”

That, he said, “is very useful because it keeps us from having to unnecessarily put people in harm’s way and saves valuable time.”

Effectively handling an incident “is based on the ability of the professionals who handle those sorts of things everyday to communicate, evaluate the situation and act accordingly,” said Allen.

“We’ve put a system in place that gives us the ability to evaluate situations and come up with solutions without having to shut an entire line down to find out what the problem is,” he said. “That way the trains can keep on running while we do whatever we need to do.”

[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](#)

Online at zev.lacounty.gov, and republished here with the kind permission of the official Third District website of Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

Orange Line extension's rolling forward fast



Orange Line project manager Hitesh Patel at new privacy fence going up in Chatsworth.

- Online at zev.lacounty.gov, and republished here with the kind permission of the official Third District website of Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

Hitesh Patel has been riding the Orange Line since Day One.

Since he lives in Yorba Linda, he hasn't actually been a daily commuter on one of the route's high-tech "Metro Liner" buses, which run from Warner Center to North Hollywood on compressed natural gas.

But as deputy project manager of the rapid transit busway's original stretch, he's been onboard throughout the planning, engineering, construction and 2005 launch of a line that wasn't expected to attract 22,000 daily weekday riders until 2020.

It hit that ridership mark its first year out, and continues to average about that today—making it a bona fide transportation hit.

So naturally, there's a sequel in the works. And this time, Patel is running the show.

Patel, a 13-year veteran of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, is project manager of the [Orange Line Extension](#), which will extend the line four miles northward from Warner Center to its final destination between Devonshire and Lassen streets in Chatsworth.

At the moment—and until the job wraps up in the summer of 2012—that makes him a very busy guy.

Ever since the contractor, Brutoco Engineering & Construction, Inc., got the go-ahead to start work in March, there's been a flurry of activity on the project.

A new 8-foot-high "privacy fence" is going up beside a mobile home park near the Chatsworth station—of one four new stations to be built as part of the project, along with new platforms at a fifth, in Canoga Park. The fence, which shields homes from construction hassles and looky-loos, is something residents had been seeking.

"We had a big input," says Jan McLeod, manager of the 198-home Chatsworth Mobile Home Park. "We needed the fence, so we got the fence. That was a big important thing for us. We're not looking forward to the next couple of years, but I keep saying to the residents, 'Remember the end goal.' "

That end goal—greatly improving transit "connectivity" in the Valley with a line projected to carry 45,500 a day by 2030—might seem a long way off. But workers already are hustling to set the stage for construction to start in May on a 500-foot bridge over Lassen Street that is one of the project's most ambitious elements.

To that end, workers are now preparing to relocate utility lines underground—a process that should start in May and end in the fall. That means intermittent lane closures have begun on Lassen during the day, with some night work expected as the project progresses.

In addition to navigating the host of approvals needed to start the work, Patel reports that 50 businesses leasing Metro property along the extension line already have been relocated, with two more to go by the end of the month. Three other businesses have had their leases with Metro modified, which means that their property lines are changing to allow the busway to go through. In addition, 26 billboards have been removed.

"We had a lot of challenges, but we worked through them," Patel says.

He's hoping that a needed agreement with Union Pacific can be obtained in coming weeks, allowing the Orange Line work to go forward across its property.

Meanwhile, Metrolink has relocated tracks and is building new rail signals to replace its current signals, which must be removed to allow for building the Lassen Street bridge.

Even before Brutoco came aboard, Metro had worked to design the parking lot north of the Chatsworth station, which is being built near the existing Metrolink parking lot. The design is intended to reflect community aesthetic preferences, including earth-tone light standards, expanded landscaping and a white split-rail fence along Devonshire.

Olga Lopez, senior community relations officer for Metro, said there's been a fairly light volume of calls about the project so far—about 500, many of them seeking information on the extension and its route. As work accelerates, she's expecting more. Meetings have been held with the Chatsworth and Canoga Park neighborhood councils, and more are planned.

Patel, 53—who was born in Uganda, lived in India and went to college in England—is a civil engineer by training. He worked at Caltrans before joining Metro in 1996. Given his experience on the original Orange Line, he thinks the busway's success—with 7.46 million riders in fiscal 2008—is something to build on for the future.

"The extension will provide greater access to more of the Valley," he says, "by improving north-south mobility and linking with the Chatsworth Metrolink station."

And, in the words of Scott McConnell, Metro's senior construction manager on the job, "we're off to a good start."

The \$215.6 million extension project, which also includes a bicycle/pedestrian path, is receiving funding from Measure R, the half-cent sales tax passed by voters in 2008. Its hotline can be reached at (213) 922-3668. The email address is molextension@metro.net.

Posted 4-21-10

| [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](#)

Metro's Jennifer Gill among 10 Constituents Honored at 46th Assembly District 'Women of Action' Awards

< Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez and Jennifer Gill, a consultant in Community Relations, at awards luncheon in Boyle Heights.

- Assembly Speaker Pérez honors Community Activist Jennifer Gill for Outstanding Contributions to the Quality of Life in the 46th Assembly District

(April 21, 2010) Less than a month into his term as the California State Assembly Speaker, John A. Pérez, who represents District 46 in Los Angeles, hosted the annual "Women of Action" luncheon and awards presentation March 27 in Boyle Heights.

The event was held to honor 10 women whose accomplishments have improved the quality of life in the 46th District during the past year.

Jennifer Gill, a consultant in Community Relations who supports Metro's constituent program management and outreach programs, was chosen by Pérez for the top ten honors. The diverse 46th District, which includes a broad range of populations from downtown Los Angeles, Westlake, and Boyle Heights to Vernon and Maywood, was celebrated for the accomplishments of the 2010 awardees.

Gill, who has resided in the Westlake District for 13 years, loved networking with the room full of civic leaders.

"I was surprised and honored to be included in this accomplished group of women," said Gill.

"One of the honorees runs the Homegirls Café; another is an environmental activist battling brown water issues in Maywood, and another wrote and directed the film 'Real Women Have Curves,' "she said.

"Jennifer Gill wears many hats," Pérez said in his introduction of the Westlake constituent. Pérez noted that Gill currently serves as the vice president of the MacArthur Park Neighborhood Council, sits on the community advisory board of the Community Redevelopment Agency, is a park advisory board member for both MacArthur Park and the Levitt Pavilion, and, is currently working on a documentary on the history of MacArthur Park.

"This is the kind of engagement in every level of the community we are here to celebrate," said Pérez.

Gill, an avid cyclist and noted photographer, is "one of the rare Angelinos who doesn't own a car," said Pérez, who is a proponent of public transportation and strong supporter of Measure R.

"That's why I'm so excited that we're looking to do the 'subway to sea' and why I'm so excited to see the new light rail revitalizing Boyle Heights, much in the same way that the subway is helping to create economic stimulus in MacArthur Park," said Pérez, recalling the "days of public transportation to everywhere," when his grandfather would take the family to the beach every Sunday on the Pacific Red Car.

Gill's long history of community activism began with a stint in the U.S. Peace Corps in Africa, where she spent 3 years teaching at the Staff Training Institute in Swaziland.

During a 15-year career in film production, while living in Puerto Rico, she took the opportunity to attend and document international film festivals in Spain, Nicaragua and Cuba. Her installation of a photography exhibit at the MSA Gallery in San Juan, Puerto Rico, documenting the festivals drew international acclaim.

As Speaker Pérez handed out engraved plaques to each awardee at the luncheon, he thanked them for their contribution to the community. "You are the latest in a long line of leaders who brighten the lives of so many people," he said.

--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](#)
- [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](#)



Check it out: [www.metro.net /projects/30-10](http://www.metro.net/projects/30-10)

Metro creates new 30/10 Initiative web page

- As reported by Steve Hymon in [The Source](#) — April 22, 2010

Here's [the link to the new web page](#) on the 30/10 Initiative that received the unanimous support of the agency's Board of Directors on Thursday.

The page includes the list of 12 transit project that the 30/10 plan hopes to accelerate and/or help fund.

Some of these projects were already scheduled to open within the next decade according to Metro's long-range plan. But getting some type of federal loan or bonds under 30/10 allows the agency to better spread Measure R funds around to hopefully complete the transit projects in the next decade.

That would be quite a boost for some of the projects. For example, the Eastside Extension of the Gold Line — which will run either to South El Monte or Whittier (the project is in its draft environmental study phase) — was originally scheduled to be finished in 2035. By the same token, the Westside Subway Extension wasn't scheduled to reach Westwood until 2036 and the Green Line South Bay Extension was also supposed to be done in 2035. The 405-Sepulveda Pass transit project wasn't scheduled to be done until 2039.

Online:

[News Release:](#) Board of Directors Backs 30/10 Initiative To Accelerate Transit Projects (Endorses parallel effort to expedite highway improvements)

[The Source:](#) 30/10 Initiative approved by Board of Directors; effort to build projects in next decade now in Washington's hands

[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](#)

Board Chair Ara Najarian and CEO Art Leahy present resolution commending outgoing Rail Chief Mike Cannell at April 22 board meeting.

Employees, Directors Say Thanks to Exiting Rail Boss Mike Cannell

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

(April 23, 2010) At its Thursday meeting, the Metro Board presented Mike Cannell with an official proclamation in recognition of his work and the positive impact he had on the agency during the three years he served as its Rail Manager.

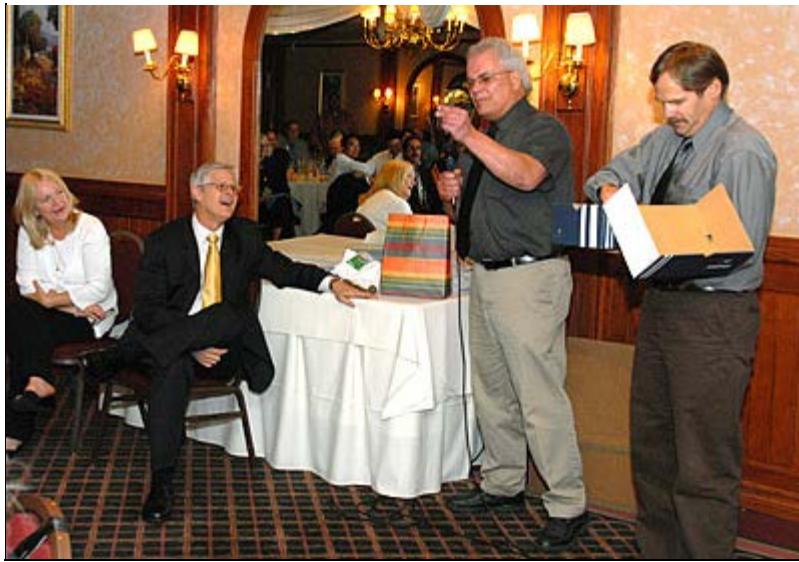
Cannell is retiring from Metro at the end of this month to return to his native Florida.

With best wishes, Cannell was teased and thanked by some 100 employees who attended a farewell luncheon held in his honor at the Luminarias Restaurant in Monterey Park.

Employees spent a few moments exchanging humorous stories about their first and ongoing encounters with Cannell, who they described as "a passionate rail boss" who made significant improvements to rail during an extremely busy and "chaotic period" in the transit agency's history.

Some of the gifts presented to the departing Cannell included rusty rail spikes and clips, a set of road maps with GPS for his car, a Thomas the Tank Engine book and a matching set of Mickey Mouse ears for he and his wife Carol to wear as they make their way east.

Rail GM Mike
Cannell and wife



Carol enjoy antics of presentation by Wayside Systems Manager Jeffrey Root and Assistant Manager Paul Squires, who presented Cannell with a couple of old rail spikes and clips complete with a business card to a place where Cannell could get the items chromed.

Below are some of the comments Cannell will be taking back with him:

- "We all appreciated his stamina and heart and his drive because it wasn't easy but he persevered. He got through it, and with lots of people on board to help us get through those times, and I think we're a lot better agency for it." -- *Duane Martin, DEO Project Management*
- "Knowing Mike and his passion for rail we will see him around again." -- *Aida Asuncion, DEO Rail Operations*
- "It's been a pleasure working with you. There've been times when we had to put together things very quickly at the last minute... a lot of changes in the last three years. Good bye my friend." --*Bruce Shelburne, Dir. Of Scheduling and Service Dev.*
- "He's made us better people, better leaders and a better team altogether." --*Hector Guerrero, Rail Div. Transportation Manager*
- "If you have passion and you treat people right, you're going to have them there (behind you) forever and Mike I've got your back." --*Roman Alarcon, Interim Executive Director, Transportation*
- "You can't fake caring. The troops figure out if you're a faker. And you're not a faker. I've had a great time working with you. Sorry to see you go." --*Lonnie Mitchell, Interim Chief Operations Officer*
- "We're not human beings trying to be spiritual. We are spiritual beings trying to be human, and Mr. Cannell is definitely spiritual." -- *Ruben Running Wolf Hernandez, Gold Line Rail Operator*
- "I enjoyed working for you. I think our greatest feat was opening up that Eastside Line. We were together as a team when we did that. I mean that was an outstanding job." -- *Randolph Gordy, Dir. Rail Facil. & Custodial Svcs.*
- "Mike your dedication and your drive and, above all, your sense of doing the right thing has been a personal inspiration for every last one of us." -- *Michael Harris Gifford, DEO Wayside Sys. Engineering & Main.*



[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](#)

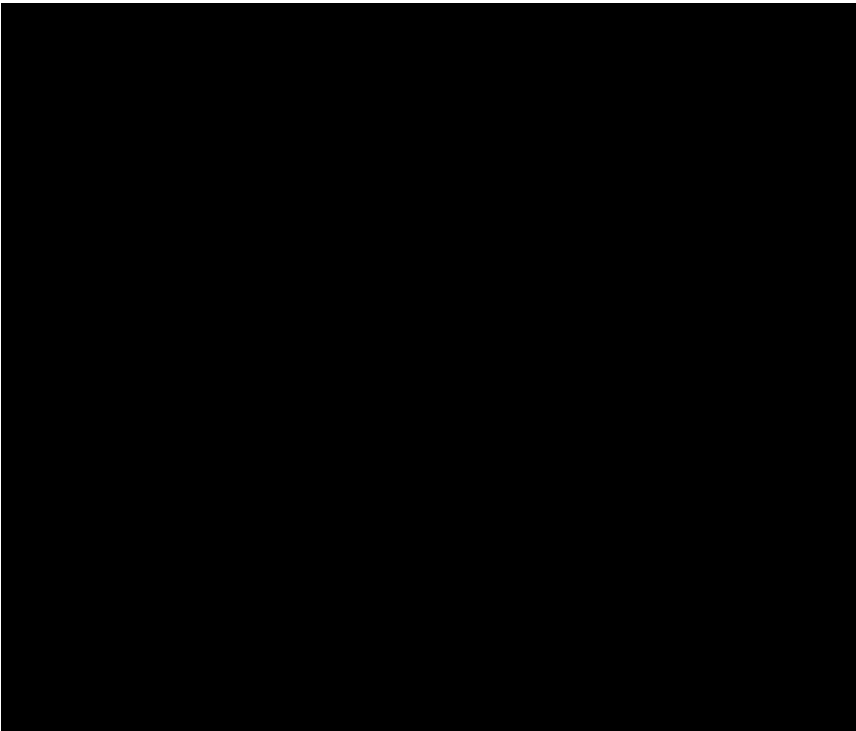
Metro Info

- [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=dHAB-zXTFs0&feature=email> 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 Citizens Advisory Council Field Transit Questions at Health Fest

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations / Volunteer Coordinator

(April 26, 2010) Hundreds of curious downtown employees visited the Metro information table at April 8 Health Fest in the Hahn Hall of Administration courtyard.

"There were typically three kinds of questions we got on public transportation," said Tony Banash, a member of the Metro Citizens Advisory Council (CAC).

"First, people wanted to know how to get from one location to another. Second, they asked about how their passes can be subsidized or discounted and, third, they wanted to know when the next major transit project is opening."

Banash was joined by Wally Shidler, who, like Banash, serves on Metro's Gateway Cities Governance Council.

Both joined the CAC about four years ago and are familiar figures, frequently manning Metro information tables at many community events.

"It's important to us to get out into the neighborhoods so we can get direct feedback from the public," said Shilder, who rides Metro every day. "We answered questions on bus passes and advised people on specific travel plans."

Every Metro Board member can appoint up to four persons to the CAC, which convenes its monthly general assembly on the Wednesday before each Metro Board meeting.

The CAC collects public input and communicates its recommendations on transportation programs to the Board and recently supported classifying the Expo Line Phase II environmental impact report and the underground Little Tokyo/Arts District Station and portal as Board "alternatives under consideration.

"We enjoy talking and explaining the Metro system, especially to people who feel it is 'not safe' or 'convenient,'" said Shidler.

Quick to agree, Banash added, "I thrive on being able to interface with our constituents."

[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 Basketball League News

Div. 3207 Goes to 5-0; Cellar Dweller Gateway Caves to the RRC

- Schedule of Games: [PDF](#)

(April 26, 2010) The Black Magic tipped-off against the RRC squad in the most recent Metro League Game of the Week.

The first half of the April 18 match-up proved to be an extended yawn as both teams just couldn't send the ball home with the Black Magic playing short-handed and the RRC five – back after a two-week layoff – leading 22 – 14 at the break.

The second half was another story altogether with the final buzzer sounding a 46-41 win for the RRC.

Llyron Young led the way for the win with a game high 17 points. Tony “To Tall” Herumin sank eight and Jens Bernardino, a lucky 7, while the Magic were led by Ruben Rodriguez with 12 points followed by Vince Wilkes with 10 and Dayton Hernandez and Sid “The Kid” Mitchell both chalking-up 8 each.

Fans at the week’s second game saw league-leader Div. 3207 plow-under the Gateway squad by a lopsidedly devastating score of 79-38.



League Standings as of 4/26	
Div 3207	5-0
Orange Crush	3-2
RRC	3-2
Black Magic	1-3
Gateway	0-5

TOS Richard Wright, West Hollywood Division Instructor, Transportation, is the Metro Basketball League Commissioner.



TEAM: Div. 3207



TEAM: RRC

The unbeaten Div. 3207 crew led at the half 40-13 with Prince Mitchell and Jason Tims contributing a game high 14 points each. Tim Williams and Melvin Ford each chipped in with 12 apiece, Eddie Corbin and Darnay White both scored 11 with Peter Jones sinking 9.

League cellar-dweller Gateway's game effort was led by Silhan Jin, who sank a team-high 13 points. Jesus Arrayaler muscled his way onto the scoreboard with eight points and Quintin Sumabat sank seven.

The Orange Crush had a bye week.

With two weeks left in the Metro's basketball season, the next league match-ups will have the Black Magic face the Orange Crush and Div. 3207 go man-to-man with the RRC squad. Gateway will have a bye.

Games will begin at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively, Sunday, April 25 at the Hawthorne High School gym.

-- from Richard Wright

Richard Wright
Director/Commissioner
(323) 449-3604 – cell
(310) 854-3142 – work
Email: rwwmentor@att.net / wright@metro.net



TEAM: Orange Crush



TEAM: Gateway

Metro Basketball League Schedule

Date/Time		Event	Other information
Mar 7	5:00PM	11- GATEWAY vs DIV. 3207-51	BYE BLACK MAGIC
	6:00PM	34- ORANGE CRUSH vs RRC-40	
Mar 14	5:00PM	39- RRC VS GATEWAY-22	BYE BLACK MAGIC
	6:00PM	60-DIV. 3207 vs ORANGE CRUSH-43	
Mar 21	5:00PM	0- BLK MAGIC vs ORANGE CRUSH-2	BYE GATEWAY
	6:00PM	29-RRC vs DIV. 3207-57	
Mar 28	5:00PM	ORANGE CRUSH vs RRC	BYE DIV. 3207
	6:00PM	BLACK MAGIC vs GATEWAY	
Apr 4	5:00PM	NO GAMES SCHEDULED EASTER	
	6:00PM		
Apr 11	5:00PM	DIV. 3207 vs BLACK MAGIC	BYE RRC
	6:00PM	ORANGE CRUSH vs GATEWAY	
Apr 18	5:00PM	GATEWAY vs DIV. 3207	BYE ORANGE CRUSH
	6:00PM	BLACK MAGIC vs RRC	
Apr 25	5:00PM	ORANGE CRUSH vs BLACK MAGIC	BYE GATEWAY
	6:00PM	DIV. 3207 vs RRC	
May 2	5:00PM	ORANGE CRUSH vs DIV. 3207	BYE RRC
	6:00PM	GATEWAY vs BLACK MAGIC	

METRO Basketball League

DIRECTOR / COMMISSIONER
 RICHARD WRIGHT
 (323) 449-3604- CELL
 (310) 854-3142 WORK
 Email:rwmentor@att.net / wright@metro.net



[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](#)

FUN > Metro Family Day 2010

^ Click on blue arrows to navigate through slide show.

• 5,000 Metro employees, family members and friends attend sixth annual Metro Family Day on Saturday, April 17, 2010

(April 26, 2010) Metro interim Chief Operation Officer Lonnie Mitchell welcomed employees, their families and guests to the sixth annual Metro Family Day held April 17 at Six Flags Magic Mountain.

The popular event was sold out, said Danielle Boutier, Director, Communications Services, and record attendance soared to 5,000.

More fun facts! Everyone enjoyed an all-you-can-eat lunch in the park's shady picnic area and played lots of games with lots of prizes. Children of all ages had a "meet and greet" photo op with Bugs Bunny and other *Looney Tunes* favorites before, during and after the thrilling Magic Mountain rides.




[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](#)

Security Advances Two Transit Security Officers to Senior Rank



Team Work: Standing, from left, Lt. Rivers Jacques, DEO Project Management Duane Martin, newly advanced Senior Transit Security Officers Michael Blake and Marlon Valdez, Deputy CEO Paul Taylor. Front row, from left, Admin. Analyst Tinh Quach, Lt. James Cook, Sgt. Louis Medrano and Sgt. Major Schaffer. *Photo by Senior Transit Security Officer Shantelle Brown.*

(April 26, 2010) After successfully navigating a round of probing interviews, Transit Security officers Michael Blake and Marlon Valdez were recently promoted to the rank of Senior Transit Security Officer at a recent promotion ceremony at the Metro Gateway headquarters.

Assistant Director of Security Leo Bauer presided over the event.

Valdez has worked as a Metro transit officer for 12 years and Blake has been with the agency for the past two years, said Lt. James Cook.

Cook said the interviewers "were very impressed with the candidates and spoke well of the two men" and their "experience and response to the questions."

The new senior officer's duties will include serving as lead officers and assisting the watch commander with specific supervisory responsibilities, he added.

The Metro Transit Security roster now stands at 91 strong with 14 senior level officers, 65 transit security officers, seven sergeants, and five lieutenants.

-- from Laura Kloth



[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](#)

OBITUARIES

Retired Bus Operator Christina Contreras Dies at 58

(April 29, 2010) Retired Bus Operator Christina Contreras died March 29 following an illness at the age of 58.

Born in Whittier, Calif., Mrs. Contreras lived in Pico Rivera with her family and was well known for loving animals, and breeding Cocker Spaniels.

Div. 8 Bus Operator Bettye Mosley remembers Mrs. Contreras as a good friend who was a “warm and caring person” toward many.

Mosley said she still has a beautiful black Cocker Spaniel named Musiq that she acquired from her friend about eight years ago.

“She was on time and very personable as an operator. I never saw her angry and was always very positive about her job,” Mosley said.

Mrs. Contreras started working as a part-time bus operator in 1985, and left in 1989, only to return to her position in 1998. She last worked at Metro in 2008. She worked in Division 6 and 10.



Christina Contreras

[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 Basketball League News

Div. 3207 B-Ball Pounces RRC while Black Magic Pops Top on Orange Crush

- Schedule of Games: [PDF](#)

(April 29, 2010) Experienced nail biters were treated to an unprecedented opportunity to practice their craft with one week left in the Metro basketball season as the undefeated Div. 3207 squad squeaked by the RRC five by a final score of 53-48.

The first half ended with the board showing Div. 3207 team up by only 4 points, 23-19 with the lackluster showing by the league leader during the first two quarters thinking that it was facing an entirely different RRC team than it had during its last meeting.

In that March matchup, Div.3207 dominated the court, blowing the RRC out of the gym by a lopsided 57-29 final tally.

The second half of last week's game was a different story, though, as the more experienced Div. 3207 team, led by Allen "Big Boy" Buard pounding the boards, finally taking control of what had turned into a scratch-and-claw fest.

Tim Williams led the Div. 3207 lineup with 13 points



TOS Richard Wright, West Hollywood Division Instructor, Transportation, is the Metro Basketball League Commissioner.

League Standings as of 4/25	
Div 3207	6-0
Orange Crush	3-3
RRC	3-3
Black Magic	2-3
Gateway	0-5



TEAM: Div. 3207



TEAM: RRC

followed by Melvin Ford's 10 points and Peter Jones, 8. The RRC scoring total had Henry Largaespada sink a game-high 16 points and Sal Buenrostro double-ace with 10 points.

The win runs Div. 3207's winning streak to 6-0.

The week's second game had the Black Magic squad pop the top on the No. 2-ranked Orange Crush squad, 46-35.

The Black Magic simply overpowered and outscored the OC five throughout the game with the score at the half showing a comfortable 23-15 lead.

The Black Magic crew was led by Vince Wilkes, who scored 16 points; Sid "The Kid" Mitchell with 14; and Dayton Hernandez arcing in 8 points, while what fizz the Orange Crush was able to produce was stirred up by Chris Robinson's 15 points and Curtis Shelby's 9.

League leaders Div. 3207 and Orange Crush will tip-off and cellar dweller Gateway will face the Black Magic in the final two games of the season next week.

The match-ups will start at 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm, respectively, Sunday, May 2 at the Hawthorne High School gym.

-- from Richard Wright

Richard Wright
Director/Commissioner
(323) 449-3604 – cell
(310) 854-3142 – work
Email: rwmentor@att.net / wright@metro.net



TEAM: Orange Crush



TEAM: Gateway

[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](#)

Badges Made Easy: HR specialist Lisa Alexander poses for photo session with specialist Esmeralda Ledezma to demonstrate ease of photo requirement for new dependent badge.

Deadline looms for new dependent/retiree badges to replace TAP-empowered chip about to expire end of June

How it Works: Go directly to the Human Resources' Employment Office, located on the Patsaouras Plaza at Metro Headquarters, to get same-time processing of a new dependent/retiree badge and photo. No appointment is necessary; badges are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **Now through July 9:** Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Saturday, May 15,** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Saturday, June 12,** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(April 29, 2010) Holders of red-bordered dependent badges about to expire are at risk of losing fare privileges in July.

Metro dependent and retiree badges containing the TAP chip were issued in the first months of 2007. Branded with the Metro logo and Transit Access Pass TAP insignia, the TAP badges provide transit fare on Metro.

The Employment Office is in the process of issuing new cards designed with gray borders that contain chips valid until December 2015.

All dependent children with red-bordered dependent badges are required to come in for an updated photo in order to receive a new badge.

During the renewal period, all retirees and domestic partners or spouses with red-bordered badges have the option to either keep the existing photo or come in to update their photo at no charge.

Retirees, domestic partners and/or spouses who do not wish to update their photos may contact Janet Chu-Hooker at 213.922.3688 to make arrangements for a new badge.

Those applying for badges for the first time are required to submit appropriate proof of Metro status.

Spouses need to provide a marriage certificate. Domestic partners need to provide proof of domestic partnership.

Parents of dependent children must provide a birth certificate (and a marriage certificate if the dependent is a stepchild.) If the dependent is between the ages of 19 to 23, proof of full-time student status must be provided.

Those needing a new badge can go directly to the Human Resources' Employment Office, located on the Patsaouras Plaza at Metro Headquarters, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. through July 9.

Information: Janet Chu-Hooker 213.922.3688.