



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**News**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Harriet, the tunnel boring machine, arrives at Leimert Park Station to complete first of two tunnels for Crenshaw/LAX ~~Light-rail~~ Rail Project**

After six months of digging, Harriet, the tunnel boring machine (TBM), arrived today at the Leimert Park Station to complete the first of the twin tunnels that will connect the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project's three underground stations, announced Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro).

"This is one more milestone for this very important link in our fast-growing transit network," said ~~Metro Board Chair and Duarte City Council Member~~ John Fasana, ~~the Metro Board Chair and City of Duarte Council Member~~. ~~"We're on target toward a 2019 opening and it won't be long until everyone can enjoy fast, frequent"~~ It won't be long until we're out here celebrating the beginning of rail service in this vital corridor."

Harriet was lowered into the ground under the future Crenshaw/Expo Station last winter and began digging to the south in April. In August, Harriet reached the Martin Luther King Jr. Station and then began excavating the last segment of the one-mile tunnel in September.

"A few months ago we celebrated the halfway mark of construction on the project and today we're seeing even more progress," said Mark Ridley-Thomas, L.A. County Supervisor and Metro Board Member. "The pace of work continues

to be impressive as we connect neighborhoods along the Crenshaw/LAX Line's route."

After today's event the TBM will be taken apart and hauled back to the Expo construction yard at Crenshaw and Exposition boulevards. Harriet will then be lowered back underground and reassembled and then will begin digging the tunnel for the northbound tracks.

"After the demise of the streetcars, Los Angeles residents dreamed and fought for years for a return of rail transit to the Crenshaw corridor," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, the ~~Los Angeles Mayor and~~ Metro Board First Vice Chair. "That dream is now becoming a reality and we will soon have easy access via transit to some of our city's oldest neighborhoods and Los Angeles International Airport."

The \$2.058-billion project is funded largely by Measure R approved by Los Angeles County voters in 2008. The light rail line will include eight new stations to serve the Crenshaw, Inglewood and LAX communities and accommodations for an additional station at 96<sup>th</sup> Street that will offer easy rail and bus transfers to the future LAX people mover that will serve airport terminals.

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At today's TBM breakthrough event, Metro CEO Phillip Washington announced that Metro and contractor Walsh Shea Corridor Constructors have committed to completing the Crenshaw Line in 2019.

"This agreement provides a partnership framework for Metro and its contractors to work through project changes to deliver projects to the public within the expected, and possibly accelerated, timeline." said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. "When the Crenshaw/LAX Rail Line opens in 2019, the real winners will be the traveling public as the Metro rail system offers more mobility options to Los Angeles county residents."

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The TBM was named after Harriet Tubman, the African-American abolitionist and humanitarian who helped slaves escape the South using a network of safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. A contest was held among area students to name the TBM; it was won by Calvin Mosley, a student at City Honors High School in Inglewood.

The TBM weighs 950 tons, has a diameter of 21½ feet and is 400 feet long. Harriet advanced about 60 feet a day through soil and rock under Crenshaw Boulevard.

Work on the Crenshaw/LAX ~~Transit Rail~~ Project continues to advance ~~throughout along~~ the rail line's 8.5-mile route between the Expo Line and Green Line. Excavation of the three underground stations is completed. Construction of the six bridges is underway. Platforms are rising for the at-grade stations at Fairview Heights, Downtown Inglewood and Westchester/Veterans and installation of the overhead power system continues.

~~“When the Crenshaw/LAX light rail line opens in 2019, the Metro Rail system will crisscross the county offering real mobility options to all Los Angeles county residents,” said Metro CEO Phil A. Washington. “Completion of the first of two tunnels is another step in the right direction for the construction boom that Metro is leading thanks to Measure R.”~~

~~The \$2.058 billion project is funded largely by the Measure R sales tax measure approved by Los Angeles County voters in 2008. The light rail line will include eight new stations to serve the Crenshaw, Inglewood and LAX communities and an additional station that will offer easy rail and bus transfers to the future LAX people mover that will serve airport terminals.~~

For more information on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project go to [metro.net/Crenshaw](http://metro.net/Crenshaw) or join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CrenshawRail> and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/crenshawrail> or call the project hotline (213) 922-2736.

#### About Metro

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. Created in 1993, Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that transports about 1.4 million passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 clean air buses and six rail lines. The agency also oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related building projects and leads transportation planning and programming for Los Angeles County. ~~Through its oversight of one of the largest public works programs in America, Metro is changing the urban landscape of one of the country's largest, most populous counties.~~

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