



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

News

April 21, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harriet, the tunnel boring machine, retires after digging twin tunnels for Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project



The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) today celebrated the end of tunnel excavation for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project. Harriet, the tunnel boring machine (TBM), completed digging the second of the twin tunnels for the light rail line on April 6.

Harriet began excavating the first of the two rail tunnels under Crenshaw Boulevard on April 26, 2016. The TBM arrived at Leimert Park Station on October 20. Excavation of the second tunnel began on November 29 and was completed April 6.

The 950-ton, 400-foot-long TBM advanced an average of 60 feet a day through soil and rock under Crenshaw Boulevard. Installation of rail tracks has begun in the southbound tunnel. The 8.5-mile light rail line is scheduled to open in fall 2019.

“The end of tunneling is a major milestone for the project and I look forward to this new rail line helping residents from the Crenshaw community

travel by transit to destinations across the county,” said Metro Board Chair John Fasana. “That will soon be possible thanks to the fine work of the crews who manned Harriet over the past year.”

The TBM was named after Harriet Tubman, the famous African-American abolitionist and humanitarian who helped slaves escape the South using a network of safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. A local student suggested the name as part of a contest held by Metro.

“The path we blaze today will be our legacy tomorrow,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Mark Ridley-Thomas. “Harriet, our tunnel boring machine, has done her job, so well, that in 2019, Angelenos will be able to travel from Exposition Boulevard to Leimert Park within a few short minutes.”

A ninth station — to be built separate from this project — will be located at Aviation Boulevard and 96th Street and will be the transfer point between Metro Rail and an automated people mover that will serve the LAX terminals. Los Angeles World Airports is building the people mover and has targeted a 2023 completion date.

“We all know that construction is a messy business but with the arrival of Harriet to Leimert Park we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel,” said Metro Board Member Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker. “The small mom-and-pop businesses that have been through a lot of hardship during the construction period will soon reap the benefits that a project like the Crenshaw/LAX can bring to our communities.”

The one-mile tunnels connect the project’s three underground stations: Expo/Crenshaw, Martin Luther King Jr. and Leimert Park. The \$2.058-billion Crenshaw/LAX Line include eight new stations: Crenshaw/Expo, Martin Luther King Jr., Leimert Park, Hyde Park, Fairview Heights, Downtown Inglewood, Westchester/Veterans and Aviation/Century.

“This Measure R project will become a reality in the fall of 2019 will be a vital component of Metro’s transit revolution,” said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. “And this project will join other transit, road, walking and bike projects funded by Measure R and Measure M that will transform the Los Angeles urban landscape.”

Photo caption: From left to right:

Metro Board Chair John Fasana, L.A. Supervisor & Metro Board Member Mark Ridley-Thomas, Metro Board Member Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington and President & CEO of J.F. Shea Co. Inc. Peter Shea. Photo L.A. Metro.

About Crenshaw/LAX Line

The 8.5-mile Crenshaw/LAX Line is a \$2.058 billion light-rail line that will connect the Green Line and the Expo Line. It will have eight new stations to serve the Crenshaw, Inglewood and LAX communities. It is expected to open in 2019.

For more information on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project go to 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 1.3 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.

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