

CEO BRIEF | EVERY VOICE COUNTS

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Chief Executive Officer

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Metro and the SEED School Win National Award for Better Government

On Monday, September 16, I was honored to take the stage at the Pioneer Institute's Awards Gala in Boston with Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Bruce Landsberg, the Vice Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board. At this awards gala attended by 300 people, Metro's Career Pathways Program—and in particular the SEED School of Los Angeles County—was awarded the top prize by the Pioneer Institute's Better Government Competition. The theme of the 2019 contest was, "Moving People, Moving Goods, Moving Forward," and it focused on innovations that prepare the American workforce for the future of transportation.

The competition received more than 140 entries from transit systems, government, public agencies, entrepreneurs, universities, and nonprofits across the nation - and they chose us as the winner! And get this, the award comes with a check for \$10,000 made out to the SEED Foundation to help support the school. In other words, our transit school hasn't broken ground yet and we're already winning prestigious awards.

Metro's Career Pathways Program combines education, mentorships, and hands-on learning opportunities to develop leaders who will fill transportation jobs over the next 40 years. I encourage all of you to learn about the Career Pathways Program and take full advantage of it.



September Operations Employees of the Month

Operations Department recognized employees from Transportation, Maintenance and Logistics during Thursday's Operations, Safety, and Customer Experience Meeting as the department's September 2019 Employees of the Month.

The Transportation Employee of the Month award was presented to Mr. Wesley Levy, bus operator at Cypress Park Division 3. Mr. Levy embodies the spirit of a true public servant. His daily routine ensures that his bus is well maintained inside and out before placing it into service while his number one priority is maintaining excellent public relations with his customers. Metro isn't just a job to Mr. Levy – to him, it's about genuinely caring and helping people, and being able to play a part in their lives, even when challenges arise.

The Maintenance Employee of the Month award was presented to Mr. Saul Chamness, Traction Power Inspector Leader. Mr. Chamness has been with Metro for 20 years, beginning his career in 1999 as a Custodian and was gradually promoted to Traction Power Inspector Leader. He is an essential part of the Traction Power Team and always demonstrates professionalism, stellar work ethic, and is an excellent example not only for the Traction Power Inspectors, but for all Metro employees. He goes above and beyond the scope of his work to assure that traction power projects, maintenance, and inspections are scheduled and completed in a timely manner. He recently displayed extraordinary dedication and worked the extra hour's necessary to keep both Overhead Catenary System repairs on the Gold Line proceeding to completion in a timely manner.

The Logistics Employee of the Quarter was presented to Mr. Ernie De La Rosa, Storekeeper at Cypress Park Division 3. Mr. De La Rosa has been with Metro for 32 years, beginning his career in 1987 at Division 10 as a stock clerk. He has developed a reputation of providing exceptional customer service and being a mentor. He is a proud military veteran who credits the Air Force for helping to shape him into the person he is today. Mr. De La Rosa takes pride in providing the best customer service he can to the maintenance department.



LA Metro Planners Receive Top Awards at APA CA State Chapter Conference

I want to congratulate two members of Metro's Countywide Planning and Development Department for receiving top awards at the 2019 American Planning Association (APA) California State Chapter Conference in Santa Barbara. Senior Executive Officer David Mieger, and Principal Real Estate Officer Derek R. Hull, were recognized for their outstanding work in planning.

David received the Planner Emeritus Network award for his tenure in Planning. The award is granted to a person who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the planning profession or for a significant accomplishment which enhanced the recognition of planning. David has worked at LA Metro since the early 1990s. During the 2019 APA Los Angeles Section Awards program, David was recognized as a Planning Pioneer. He is a certified planner in APA and a strong asset to our agency.

Derek received the award of excellence for Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff. This award honors an individual, project, group, or organization that promotes diversity and demonstrates a sustained commitment to advocacy by addressing the concerns of women and minorities through specific actions or contributions within the planning profession or through the planning practice. The awards committee felt that Derek's achievements in planning were highly commendable- he served as the first African-American Principal Planner for Riverside County, the first African-American Planning and Economic Development Director for the City of Compton and the first African-American Economic and Community Development Manager for Civic San Diego, the city's former Redevelopment Authority. In addition, Derek has served in various leadership roles in APA and is currently the Chair of Planning and the Black Community Division (PBCD) of APA.

We extend a congratulation to David and Derek for their commitment to planning. If you are interested in learning more about APA, join the Countywide Planning and Development Department during the month of October for National Community Planning Month. You can participate in events that will highlight the importance of planning.



Curbed Blog Recognizes LA Metro for Most Beautiful Rail Stations in the U.S.

Urban design blog network *Curbed* recently recognized Metro for rail station artwork as published in their article, “[8 most beautiful subway stations in the U.S.](#)” Three of the eight rail stations included in this honor are LA Metro’s Pershing Square, Hollywood/Vine and Vermont/Sunset subway stations. Each station was lauded for its integrated site-specific artwork ranging from authentic neon sculpture by Stephen [Antonakos](#), nods to old Hollywood by Gilbert [Lujan](#) and planetary elements by Michael [Davis](#). Metro takes pride in our Art program that enhances the customer experience by improving the visual quality of our transit environment and ultimately connects people, sites and neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles County.



Metro Joins Coalition for Clean Air at Kick-Off Clean Air Day Event at Union Station

Last week, Metro Board Chair and City of Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts kicked off California Clean Air Day at a press conference at Union Station featuring elected officials, and business and community leaders to highlight the various activities and commitments to clear the air for the upcoming Clean Air Day set for Wednesday, October 2, 2019. The event featured a panel of environmental experts discussing clean air strategies and commitments. Metro’s Executive Officer, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability, Cris Liban participated in the panel along with California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, California Assemblymember Cristina Garcia and Director, Public Policy for Dignity Health Rachelle Reyes Wenger.

California Clean Air Day is a nonprofit, statewide program built on the idea that shared experiences unite people to action to improve our community health. On Wednesday, October 2, 2019, Californians will take action to clear the air and improve their health and the health of their communities by choosing to take public transit or carpool to work. I encourage everyone to do their part to clear the air by taking the pledge to help show that Metro employees’ support clean air.

Click [here](#) to take the pledge and enter Metro's organization code "LACM".



Extraordinary Transportation Innovation is Happening at Metro

What is Metro looking into to help speed up our buses on congested city streets? What is the latest on the partnership with Via to provide "Uber-like" mobility on demand service? Can public transit and Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) work together for optimal mobility? If you're curious about these questions and about what other innovative projects are happening in the Office of Extraordinary Innovation (OEI), they recently released a newsletter to inform you of the plethora of projects they have been working on which includes their [2019 Innovation Portfolio](#): Transforming Ideas into Improvements. Have a look at the latest OEI Newsletter, [here](#), and get inspired by the world of extraordinary transportation innovations happening all around us.



Veterans Program Supports 3rd Annual MENS Empowerment Summit

Metro Veterans Program recently partnered with Radio-Free 102.3 FM KJLH to coordinate the 3rd Annual Men's Empowerment Summit. The summit is a call to action to empower men of color to take a proactive stance on issues affecting the quality of their lives individually and collectively. Services included an inspirational message by Devon Franklin, breakout sessions on Veteran Services Faith, Criminal Justice Reform, Mentorship, Be Your Own Boss, Employment, and Tips for Successful Reintegration after prison, Financial Fitness, Health & Wellness and much more.

Metro provided support with employment opportunities along with assistance from other government, public, and private agencies to educate attendees on positions and hiring goals. Red Cross-Los Angeles Region coordinated with numerous Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) who serviced all veterans and military spouses with assistance on disability claims, healthcare, and vocational training opportunities. USVETS Long Beach, Cabrillo Housing location Salvation Army Bell-Shelter & SRO Housing also participated in full force. This event by KJLH hosted 50 vendors and 1,000+ attendees.

I want to thank the many partners that joined forces from all sectors – private, public, government, non-profit – that came together for a wonderful cause. Lastly, thanks to Metro Senior Leadership, Metro Veterans Programs in collaboration with Talent Acquisition Department, and every person that assisted in these efforts to ensure our organization was well represented on this day of resources and inspirational messages meant to empower, motivate, and inform the men and women in our community.



16th Annual Veteran Stand-Down Event

Metro Veteran Program Manager, Dennis Tucker recently assisted in coordinating the efforts on behalf of Metro for the City of Compton's 16th Annual Homeless Veteran Stand-Down Event. The two-and-a-half-day event combined partnerships with several major veteran service organizations and facilities within the South LA, Long Beach, and West LA areas to provide stability and support. Services included employment, housing, and legal assistance, dental care, workshops, medical and vision exams, mental health counseling, clothing and hygiene kits, shower and haircuts, social security benefits, and much more.

LA Metro provided volunteers, support staff and the "METRO EXPERIENCE", which served as entertainment to the veteran/homeless population for the weekend. This special occasion provided an opportunity for veterans of all branches of the military to come together and receive support and vital services to help improve their lives. The 16th Annual Veteran Stand-Down Event hosted 30 vendors and 1,100 homeless veterans and their families over three days.

I want to thank Compton Mayor Aja Brown, Compton City Manager Craig J. Cornwell, Compton Chamber of Commerce President Dr. Lestean Johnson, and President Planning Committee for The Love of Our Veterans Ms. Charlie Lenon for supporting these tremendous efforts. Lastly, thanks to Non-Revenue Operations- Division 4, Metro Systems Security & Law Enforcement Department, Metro Veterans Programs in collaboration with Talent Acquisition to ensure our organization was well represented in full force at this great event.



Hispanic Heritage Leadership Spotlight: Sulma Torres & Eloina Lindsey

In recognition of Latino Heritage Month, we want to spotlight two Metro operations employees for their outstanding leadership.

Sulma Torres, Bus Operator at Los Angeles Division 10 of Honduran heritage is an outstanding operator with an exemplary work record. She was a line instructor and was the first female to win the Division Rodeo in 2016. What Sulma enjoys most about working at LA Metro is the ability to help people by transporting them to their destinations. She looks forward to participating in the annual Rodeos and has a passion to perform at her very best. Sulma's advice for new employees is to never be over confident and take your job seriously. In her free time, she enjoys taking her daughters to the park and beach and enjoys visiting San Diego.

We also want to recognize Eloina Lindsey, Bus Operator at Sun Valley Division 15 who identifies with Guerrero, Mexico. Eloina has a passion for driving and enters work every day with a smile to share with her customers and is always ready for challenges that come her way. Eloina has been selected Operator of the Month twice for her dedication and commitment to be the best operator she can. She has a positive disposition which is appreciated by her colleagues and supervisors. Eloina's favorite part about working at LA Metro is operating a bus and enjoys the bus lines close to her home, serving her community. Her advice to new employees is to not be afraid to ask operators for assistance and guidance. In her free time, she enjoys hiking in the mountains, running, and listening to her favorite music.



Procurement Postings

Real Estate Appraisal Service Bench (RFIQ)

Metro will release a Request for Information and Qualifications (RFIQ) to establish a bench of qualified appraisal firms on an as-needed basis for various appraisal disciplines including: real estate; furniture, fixtures and equipment; and business goodwill.

The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, September 27, 2019 through Thursday, February 6, 2020.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Mark Marukian, Contract Administrator at (213) 418-3313.

Construction Notices: Purple Line Extension, Regional Connector, Orange Line, I-5

Purple Line Extension Project: Weekend Utility Work on Wilshire Blvd.

The design-build contractor for the Purple Line Extension Project Section 2 continues utility work on Wilshire Blvd. between El Camino Dr. and Crescent Dr. Work includes potholing, sewer line relocation, water line relocation, and storm drain replacement. To expedite work, these activities will continue weekends beginning July 20, 2019 through September 29, 2019 from 8am to 8pm. Lane closures, crosswalk closures, and sidewalk closures will be required for this work. One lane will remain open in each direction on Wilshire Blvd.

Regional Connector: Pile Installation on Alameda St and Temple St

RCC will continue utility investigation in preparation for pile installation along northbound Alameda St, within the Mangrove yard and at Temple St. Anticipate lane reductions on Alameda St and Temple St. Pile installation is anticipated to begin within the Mangrove yard on Monday, July 29, 2019, and continue for approximately four months.

Anticipated work hours are:

- Monday through Friday, from 7 am to 9 pm
- Saturday, from 8 am to 6 pm

Temporary closure of Orange Line North Hollywood Station Bus Terminal to start July 28

Metro plans to convert its entire fleet of buses to zero emission buses by 2030. The first phase of the transition will launch on the Orange Line with the deployment of battery electric buses. To accommodate the new buses, Metro will be installing bus charging stations at the Orange Line North Hollywood Station. Due to this construction activity, the Orange Line North Hollywood bus terminal will be closed beginning Sunday, July 28, through Oct. 31.

The temporary pick up/drop off locations will be relocated to the following:

- Board buses at northwest corner of Lankershim and Chandler.
- Exit buses at southeast corner of Lankershim and Cumpston.

Caltrans Interstate 5: All Construction Updates [here](#).

"I don't study to know more, but to ignore less."

~ Juana In é s de la Cruz



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