



Monday, March 1, 2021

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COMTO Celebrates Black History Month and 50th Anniversary

On Thursday, March 25, I was honored to lead a distinguished panel of State Department of Transportation (DOT) leaders during a celebration of Black History Month and Conference of Minority Transportation Official's (COMTO) 50th Anniversary. We honored and recognized history in the making with five African American State DOT Directors/Secretaries: Omer Osman, Illinois; Shawn Wilson, Louisiana; Toks Omishakin, California; and Jack Marchbanks, Ohio. We held an informal, wide-ranging discussion and lively Q&A.

We highlighted the progress African Americans have made in transportation, particularly at the state level. We focused on the panelists own personal career journeys where they offered advice and insight on their own success and career paths and ways that we can ensure that more African Americans continue to thrive in transportation. We also reflected

on the progress and future of COMTO as we celebrated the organization's 50th anniversary. I am very proud to have played a small role in COMTO's history and want to thank COMTO National Board Chair Freddie Fuller for his leadership and vision for COMTO and for inviting me to lead this important discussion.

Tunnel Boring Machine Elsie Breaks through to Wilshire/La Cienega Station

We are happy to report that our first Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), named *Elsie*, has officially broken through to the Wilshire/La Cienega subway station site in Beverly Hills. It is the first of two TBMs that will reach this last station on Section 1 of the Metro Purple (D) Line Extension Project. Tunneling for the first four-mile section of the project is now two-thirds complete. More than 90 percent of the tunnels have been mined safely and Metro anticipates completing tunnel mining this summer.

Reaching this milestone is a significant win for Metro. Section 1 of project tunneling has presented challenges that have been successfully overcome by the project team. En route to Wilshire/La Cienega, the agency's modern, high-tech TBMs have mined through a unique combination of soils and geologic conditions, including tar sands and methane gas. Metro's TBMs were first lowered into the ground at Metro's Wilshire/La Brea station site in the Miracle Mile area of Wilshire in October 2018. While advancing, the TBM tunneled about 60 feet per day. They worked five days a week, 20 hours a day.

This project is easily the most complex engineering feat in the modern history of LA Metro Rail construction; the subway travels through some of the county's most densely urbanized neighborhoods and beneath some of our region's most challenging geologic conditions. I'm glad that our project team has had such great success in tunneling through this area.

For photos and video of the Wilshire/La Cienega TBM breakthrough or for more information on the Purple Line Extension Project, go to www.metro.net/purplelineext.



\$35M in State Transit-Oriented Development Funding Awarded to Metro Partner Projects

In February 2021, the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) announced its [Transit-Oriented Development \(TOD\) Program](#) awardees. The HCD TOD Program's goal is to increase transit ridership by funding higher density affordable housing developments and infrastructure improvements within one-quarter mile of transit stations. I am pleased to report that the following three Metro-supported projects received awards:

- [1st/Soto Joint Development Project](#) - \$10M Affordable Housing Award;
- [Vermont/Santa Monica Joint Development Project](#) – \$10M Affordable Housing Award and \$5M Infrastructure Grant Award to be used for station plaza improvements; and
- [Vermont/Manchester Mixed Use Project/SEED School](#) - \$5M Affordable Housing Award and \$5M Infrastructure Grant Award.

This funding will help Metro advance its goal of generating affordable housing that is well-connected to transit.

Wildly Popular Reception to Metro Art's Online Premiere of "Bob Baker Day Meets Union Station"

Metro Art and Bob Baker Marionette Theater's online premiere of *Bob Baker Day Meets Union Station* on Saturday was met with wild success--over 47,000 views, extensive positive engagement and advance press coverage (KCRW's 90K-subscriber strong "[5 Things To Do](#)," [NBC](#), [Broadway World](#), [Performing Arts Live](#), to name a few). The historic Theater's vintage and much beloved puppets performed throughout and beautifully showcased historic Union Station. The magical puppet performances also creatively highlight the many ways to get around Los Angeles. The celebration includes an [interactive website](#), with Union Station as the virtual launchpad for visits to several Los Angeles landmarks while staying home.

An avid, lifelong transit rider, Bob Baker once said, "I remember riding the Red Car all over the city as a kid...I love the current light rail system and take the subway whenever I can."

The show premiered on February 27 and will continue to be available on Metro's [Facebook](#), Metro Art's [Facebook](#) and Union Station's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channel. Thank you to Union Station's Property Management team and Metro's Public Relations team for the excellent collaborative effort in bringing this program to fruition.

Women and Girls Governing Council Celebrates Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month - a month to celebrate inspirational, adaptable, resilient, and trailblazing women in our lives. International Women's Day occurs March 8 to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

This year, the Women and Girls Governing Council's theme for the month is "Persevering through Life's Challenges." WGGC will be offering virtual events that will highlight and provide strategies to continue to thrive through these unprecedented times. Space is limited to allow for participation and interaction. All workshops will be recorded and accessible on [WGGC's SharePoint](#), if you are unable to attend. Please see below for all WGGC's March events.

Monday, March 8, 2021

Workshop – The Basics of Mindfulness and Purposeful Pauses

Presentation by Janice Marturano from Institute of Mindful Leadership

Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am via Zoom

Space will be limited, please RSVP [here](#).

Monday, March 15, 2021

Workshop – Resilience for Professionals

Presentation by Lucy Bailey from Bounce Forward

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am via Zoom

Space will be limited, please RSVP [here](#).

Friday, March 26, 2021

Workshop – Let's Build Generational Wealth!

Presentation by Rita-Soledad Fernandez Paulino from WealthParaTodos

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm via Zoom

Space will be limited, please RSVP [here](#).

Monday, March 29, 2021

Metro Career Pathway Panel

Panelists will share their career pathway and strategies for success.

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm via Zoom

Please RSVP [here](#).



Procurement Postings

SoCal 511 Travelers Information Center Support (RFP)

LA SAFE released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure services for personnel to provide technical support and project management services to the Southern California 511 Traveler Information Center (TIC). **This project is a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Set-Aside open to Metro Certified Small Businesses only.** The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from Friday, February 26, 2021 through Friday, April 30, 2021.

LA SAFE will seek proposals from qualified firms to staff the TIC function and conduct operations and support of the traveler information systems. LA SAFE requires two (2) full time operations staff members to provide appropriate execution and oversight of the SoCal 511 systems.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by DeValory Donahue, Principal Contract Administrator at donahued@metro.net.

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

Regional Connector Transit Project - Closure of Temple St. for Alameda Tunnel Box

Regional Connector Constructors (RCC) implemented an extended closure of Temple St between Alameda St and Garey St for the construction of the Alameda Tunnel Box. The 24/7 closure began on Friday, January 29, 2021 and will continue for approximately six months. To view the notice of work click, [here](#).

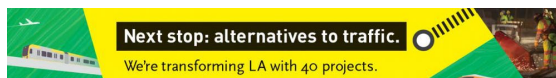
Purple Line Extension Project: Utility Relocation on Ashton Ave and Midvale Ave

Metro contractors will conduct utility relocation for the sanitary sewer lines on Wilshire Blvd., Westwood Blvd., Ashton Ave., and Midvale Ave. in preparation for the Purple (D Line) Extension Section 3 project. Work is scheduled to begin on February 10, 2021, and will take approximately 2 months to complete. To view the notice of work click [here](#).

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

"When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are challenged to change ourselves."

~ Viktor E. Frankl



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