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Metro's African American Employee Association (AAEA) Event Series to Celebrate Black History Month

Metro's African American Employee Association (AAEA) sponsors events to educate Metro employees on the history, contributions and culture of African Americans throughout the year. In celebration of Black History Month 2013, AAEA will be hosting various events during February. Yesterday, AAEA sponsored a "Lunch and Learn" Event at the Metro Research Library that featured a presentation by Matt Barrett, Research and Records Administrator on "[Transit Firsts: The First African American Motormen of Los Angeles](#)". The event was well attended, and included Executive staff and former General Manager Leilia Bailey-Leahy, who was also recognized during the presentation. The next scheduled event will feature Bill Overton, author of *The Media: Shaping the Image of a People* on February 27, 2013 at noon in the 3rd floor Board overflow room at Metro Headquarters.

Countdown to I-10 Metro ExpressLanes: Tip #3 – Avoid \$490 Fine: Crossing Double White Lines = Crossing Double Yellow Lines

With 8 days remaining before the 10 ExpressLanes open between Alameda Street and the 605, it's important to issue a reminder that the ExpressLanes are separated from the general purpose lanes by double solid white lines. This is a change from the typical carpool lanes which are separated from the general purpose lanes by double solid yellow lines. Why the change? In 2011, the State passed a law requiring Express Lanes to conform to the federal requirement that double white lines serve as the buffer striping to separate the general purpose lanes from the Express Lanes. It's a moving violation to cross the double white lines so never cross a double white or double yellow line. The double white lines are in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. An early lesson learned from the 110 ExpressLanes is the need for signage specifically related to the double white lines. Last month, these additional signs were installed along the 110. The signs have also been installed along the 10 in advance of the opening of the ExpressLanes next week. The 10 ExpressLanes have designated entry and exit points indicated by a single dashed white line. For more information on the Rules of the Road, please view the video [here](#).

[About Metro ExpressLanes](#)

Metro ExpressLanes is an exciting new endeavor. But like all new undertakings, it will take some time to become familiar with how it works, and it will take time before we experience the full benefits and rewards of this new traffic flow improvement project. We expect to see traffic flow enhancements and congestion reduction as the project progresses over time along with some immediate advantages such as new and more frequent transit service. Participant-adoption, and on-going feedback as a vital partner in this program will ensure its success as well as an improved travel experience for all drivers between the 110 and 10 freeways to downtown Los Angeles.

<https://www.metroexpresslanes.net/en/about/videos.shtml>

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GAO Cites Highway Trust Fund As High Risk Area

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) frequently reports on operations of the U.S. Government that it has identified as high risk. Among the areas cited in the most recent [GAO report](#) is the system that funds our nation's surface transportation program. The GAO report concludes that "Continuing to fund the Highway Trust Fund through general revenues may not be sustainable given competing demands and the federal government's fiscal challenges. A sustainable solution is based on balancing revenues to and spending from the Highway Trust Fund. New revenues from users can come only from taxes and fees, and ultimately major changes in transportation spending, revenues, or both will be needed to bring the two into balance."

It is likely that our Board-approved America Fast Forward initiative will be among those remedies Congress seriously considers as it endeavors to make the Highway Trust Fund solvent during the current 113th Congress.

Procurement Postings for Next Week

Auxiliary Inverters (IFB)

Procurement will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) next week to procure 75 Auxiliary Inverters. The procurement process blackout is expected to run from February 20, 2013 through April 9, 2013. The Blue Line rail cars are each equipped with an auxiliary inverter that converts DC current coming from the overhead catenary to AC current for use in various subsystems on the rail car, including the HVAC system, Air Compressor and Battery Chargers. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Sherri Jackson, Procurement Planning Administrator at (213) 922-1025.

Bicycle Racks (IFB)

Procurement will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) next week to procure Bicycle Racks. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from February 20, 2013 through June 30, 2013. This procurement will provide for replacement bicycle racks that are damaged or worn during service operations. Award of a contract will provide a commitment from the supplier to ensure availability at a fixed, competitive price. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Tanya Allen, Procurement Planning Administrator, at (213) 922-1018.

Threat Interdiction Units (TIUs) (9)

Procurement will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) next week to procure nine (9) Threat Interdiction Units-Chevy Tahoe or equivalent. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from February 21, 2013 through April 4, 2013. The vendor shall furnish, deliver, and warrant the vehicles according to Metro's specification and shall include all items and/or accessories not mentioned, but required, for operation of the vehicle. The vehicles shall be new and of the latest factory model year released. They shall be complete, and ready to operate upon delivery. No rebuilt or re-manufactured components will be acceptable. All components shall be Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), no aftermarket components shall be acceptable unless referenced in this specification and/or approved by the designated Metro representative prior to submittal of each respective bid. The vehicles shall be at the date of delivery in compliance with all current and applicable federal, state, AQMD and local laws pertaining to this equipment. Each bidder may be required to furnish proof of compliance during the technical evaluation period and prior to award of the bid. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by James A. Nolan, Sr. Contracts Administrator at (213) 922-7312.

Oil Separator Installation at Division 3 (IFB)

Procurement will release an Invitation for Bids (IFB) next week for a responsible contractor to furnish and install one Jensen Precast #KJP500 Sand-Oil Separator and associated piping, or approved equal, by the existing steam cleaning area at Division 3. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from February 19, 2013 through April 8, 2013. To improve the cleanliness of the buses, this project will direct the steam cleaning discharge of oil and solids through a new oil separator, and isolate the steam and bus wash operations. Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Leonardo Lopez, Senior Contract Administrator, at (213) 922-3675.

Upcoming CEO Meetings & Events

Next week, I will attend Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's 100% Signal Synchronization Event. I will also be meeting with the Mayor and will be attending a Press Event with Senator Barbara Boxer to tour the Wilshire Metro Workforce Center. On Wednesday and Thursday, I will be attending Committee meetings. Wednesday evening, I will attend the Open House for the State Rail Plan here at Metro. I will be speaking at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce's Pancakes and Politics event as well as attending the I-10 ExpressLanes Press Conference in El Monte. I will participate on a panel of the Southern California Leadership Network. Lastly, I will be meeting with the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, Karen Hedlund.

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