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In this Issue:

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood To Resign

The Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce's Board Installation and Members Luncheon

First Phase of Metro Red Line Celebrates 20-year Anniversary

Metro Staff and Artists Participate in De LaB Tour

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood To Resign

This morning, United States Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood announced that he is resigning from his Cabinet post, but will stay on as Secretary until his successor is confirmed by the U.S. Senate. In his four-plus years as Secretary, LaHood has presided over the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) which created the TIGER grants program, and the implementation of a new surface transportation bill, MAP-21, which included our agency's board approved America Fast Forward program. There is wide speculation as to who President Obama will nominate to join his cabinet as the new Transportation Secretary. The Obama Administration has declined to comment on naming a successor to Secretary LaHood. We thank Secretary LaHood for his outstanding leadership at the U.S. Department of Transportation and look forward to continuing our positive working relationship with him and his staff during the balance of his tenure. Ray LaHood became the 16th Secretary of Transportation on January 23, 2009. In nominating Ray LaHood, President-elect Obama said at the time, "Few understand our infrastructure challenge better than the outstanding public servant that I'm asking to lead the Department of Transportation."

The Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce's Board Installation and Members Luncheon

Today I addressed the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC) as the keynote speaker for their Board Installation and Member Luncheon. My comments focused on the tremendous business opportunities that accompany the public investment in transportation for Los Angeles County, with special emphasis on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor. The information about business outreach including our upcoming "Meet the Primes" event and our ongoing "How to Do Business with Metro" seminars was well received. This was my second opportunity to address the GLAAACC, and I look forward to further collaboration in the future.

First Phase of Metro Red Line Celebrates 20-year Anniversary

Today, Metro marks the 20th anniversary of the Metro Red Line's first phase from Union Station to MacArthur Park, a nearly 4.5-mile construction milestone that began a brand new chapter in regional rail construction and placing L.A. among other major cities across the globe with high-speed, high-capacity subways. The project was a twenty year undertaking, and one that helped put transit back on the map in Los Angeles. To read

more on the history of the Red Line and its impact, please view the full article on the Source blog [here](#). For videos of the Red Line opening posted on the Source blog, please click [here](#).

<http://thesource.metro.net/2013/01/29/metro-rail-at-20-2/>

<http://thesource.metro.net/2013/01/29/20-years-ago-today-videos-of-the-red-lines-opening-on-jan-29-1993/>

Metro Staff and Artists Participate in De LaB Tour

This past Sunday, Creative Services art program staff spoke on a tour hosted by De LaB (Design East of La Brea), an organization that unites creative professionals working to improve and engage the city with educational events. About 50 tour goers traveled from 7th St/Metro Center to Culver City, and staff spoke about the artwork at several of the stations along the way. Artists Jessica McCoy and Ronald Llanos were also on hand to speak about the artwork they created for two of the stations. As with all Metro art projects, the artwork is intended to enrich the transit environment and enhance the customer's journey. All artworks are created specifically for their station site and are safe, durable and easy to maintain.

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