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Friday, November 4, 2016

In this Issue

- [Update on Cellular Service in Metro Tunnels: Service for T-Mobile Now Available](#)
- [Plaque Dedication Ceremony for Medal of Honor Recipient at Expo Line Station](#)
- [City and Metro Officials Recognize Safety Improvements Along the Metro Blue Line](#)
- [Completion of Another Milestone to Connect Metro Rail to LAX](#)
- [Congressman and Metro Announce Federal Grant for Electric Buses on Orange Line](#)
- [Senior Leadership from RTC of Southern Nevada Visits Metro](#)
- [2016 Monsters' Ball for Child Care Kids at Metro](#)
- [Community Meetings for I-605 Corridor Improvement Project](#)
- [South LA Students Visit Metro Headquarters on a Job Shadow Day](#)
- [Procurement Postings](#)
- [Construction Notices](#)

Update on Cellular Service in Metro Tunnels: Service for T-Mobile Now Available

This week, cellular service became available for T-Mobile customers on the Metro Red/Purple Lines between Union Station and the Wilshire/Western Station. Verizon Wireless has been in service since April and Sprint followed by activating service in July. This T-Mobile service milestone is another accomplishment in the project to provide cellular service throughout the Red and Purple Line stations, the Gold Line's Soto/Mariachi station, and the underground portions of the Expo Line. The project is a partnership between Metro and InSite Wireless. Expansion beyond Wilshire/Western is ongoing and slated for completion in late 2017.

In addition to regular cellular service, emergency 911 calls can also be made. In the event of an emergency, riders are reminded to first contact the train operator via the emergency intercom system located on-board trains and on station platforms. Riders also can use the text feature on the Transit Watch app on their smartphones to report issues directly to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Plaque Dedication Ceremony for Medal of Honor Recipient at Expo Line Station

This morning, I joined Chair Fasana, California Assembly Member Richard Bloom, City of Santa Monica Mayor Tony Vazquez, and United States Army representatives at the 26th Street/Bergamot Expo Station in

Santa Monica for a plaque dedication ceremony for U.S. Army Private Joe Gandara. Private Gandara was a Santa Monica native who grew up in the Pico neighborhood and perished in combat during World War II. While fighting in Europe, Private Gandara took heroic action by advancing on enemy positions and destroying hostile machine-guns before being fatally wounded. Due to his Hispanic heritage, he was passed over for medals and recognition until 2014 when he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama. Today, we had the privilege to celebrate one of our fallen heroes with a small gesture of appreciation for his ultimate sacrifice to this great country.

City and Metro Officials Recognize Safety Improvements Along the Metro Blue Line

Yesterday, I joined Metro Chair John Fasana, Metro Vice Chair and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Metro Board Member and Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, City of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, City of Compton Mayor Aja Brown, Metro Director Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, and other local officials to celebrate a variety of new safety improvements along the Metro Blue Line. As part of our ongoing commitment to safety, all 27 intersections along the Metro Blue Line - the County's first and most heavily used light rail line - will receive new pedestrian barriers, wider walkways, improved signage and accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities.

In addition to these new safety features, since January 2014 we have been hard at work implementing an extensive overhaul of the Metro Blue Line to replace power stations, overhead power lines, tracks and rail cars to improve service for our patrons. Work is scheduled to continue through FY19.



Completion of Another Milestone to Connect Metro Rail to LAX

On Wednesday, Metro released the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Airport Metro Connector (AMC) 96th Street Station. The AMC 96th Street Transit Station will add a new station to the under construction Crenshaw/LAX line to connect LAX to the region's rail network via an Automated People Mover (APM) that is being planned, built and operated by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). The transit station is envisioned to be the new "Gateway" to LAX for transit riders and will be served by both the Metro Green and Crenshaw/LAX Rail Lines. It will feature three light rail platforms, a bus plaza for Metro and municipal buses, passenger pick-up/drop-off, a bicycle hub and amenities for pedestrians and bicyclists, and a Metro Hub/terminal building that will provide the connection to the LAWA APM.

The 46-day formal comment period for the Draft EIR for this project concluded in August during which time we received 74 comments. This Final EIR includes responses to those comments. The Final EIR is available at local libraries and on the project [website](#). The public was notified of its availability by email and direct mail to the project database. We also published a press release, Metro Brief Ads, posted a story on The Source, and promoted it via our social media channels. The Metro Board of Directors will consider whether to certify the Final EIR at their meeting on December 1.

Congressman and Metro Announce Federal Grant for Electric Buses on Orange Line

On Tuesday, I joined Metro Chair John Fasana, U.S. Congressman Brad Sherman and FTA Team Leader Ray Tellis to announce a \$4.3 million federal grant that Metro received to purchase five new 60-foot electric buses and eight charging stations for the Metro Orange Line. When combined with the agency's \$5.8 million match, over \$10 million will be invested to jumpstart the Orange Line's planned transition to all-electric buses. This announcement proudly crowns Metro as the first agency to deploy 60-foot articulated electric buses for transit use in the United States and demonstrates our commitment to improving air quality.

The new electric buses will be capable of en route rapid charging allowing for prompt serving of the Orange Line's 22-hour daily schedule without having to return to the division for recharging. Metro is also partner with the Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium to include workforce development in support of the zero-emission technologies on board these new vehicles.



Senior Leadership from RTC of Southern Nevada Visits Metro

On Monday, the entire Senior Leadership Team of the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Southern Nevada visited Metro to learn more about our experiences and successes. The visit, hosted by the Office of Extraordinary Innovation, gave Senior Leadership from both agencies an opportunity to share information and explore relevant initiatives and opportunities. While many topics were covered, RTC was specifically interested in learning more about Transit Security and Social and Digital Marketing / Communications. I would like to thank all members of Senior Leadership who participated, as well as OEI's Glendora Walker for organizing and Alex Wiggins, Pauletta Tonilas, Glen Becerra and John Gordon for presenting.

On-site visits present an opportunity for information sharing that is both humbling and motivating. Requests for these types of visits are an indicator that our leadership is being noticed and that our best practices are being emulated across the country. We appreciate RTCSNV for coming out to see us.



2016 Monsters' Ball for Child Care Kids at Metro

The 12th Annual Halloween Party for our Metro Child Care Kids was held on the 2nd Floor in Customer Relations. The theme this year was "Monsters' Ball".

Metro Director Customer Relations Gail Harvey coordinated with Site Supervisor of Metro Gateway Child Development Center Shaquiesha Hampton to have the kids come and trick or treat in the Metro Contact Center. The Customer Relations staff escorted 25 kids and some parents upstairs where they marched through the Metro Contact Center and were greeted by excited staff with treats to share. Metro Customer Programs and Services staff participated in their own Halloween costume fun and cubicle decorating also.

Ms. Hampton called it an amazing day and reminded us how much the children and parents really enjoy the Halloween parade each year; and I know Ms. Harvey looks forward to seeing the kids dressed up every year too. This event was coordinated by the Activities Committee, which is comprised of Anthony Rodarte, Rita Kokjian, Rachel Mestas, Erin Fernandez, Melanie Verduzco, Gaston Guess, Alonzo Williams, Paula Grigsby and Gail M. Harvey.



Community Meetings for I-605 Corridor Improvement Project

In the last two weeks, Metro and Caltrans conducted eight public outreach and scoping meetings for the environmental phase of the I-605 Corridor Improvement Project. In addition to providing information about the proposed improvements, Metro sought the community's feedback about their interests and concerns. Altogether, 175 attendees along with representatives from Congresswoman Linda Sanchez' office, Senator Tony Mendoza's office, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, the Cities of Downey, Norwalk, Industry, Pico Rivera, Baldwin Park, Whittier, and members of the City Councils of South El Monte and Whittier. This project is part of the I-605 Corridor "Hot Spots" Projects, visit www.metro.net/605hotspots for more information.



South LA Students Visit Metro Headquarters on a Job Shadow Day

Last week, in partnership with the Young Leaders in Government Project, we hosted 30 bright students from Crenshaw High School, Washington Prep High School and Middle College High School on a Job Shadow Day at Metro Headquarters. The students got a grand tour of the building and learned about Metro's projects, programs and careers. They were able to see first-hand how government impacts their communities and receive advice on what it takes to break in to transportation. Students also got a chance to see the agency in action and learn about the long-term benefits of Metro's projects in their communities.

Procurement Postings

P2550 LRV Coupler Overhaul - (IFB)

Metro released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) seeking bids from qualified firms to perform the overhaul services on the P2550 Light Rail Vehicles (LRV) Coupler. The procurement process blackout period is expected to run from November 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017.

This procurement is for overhaul of LRV Coupler used on the Metro Gold Line. The Contractor will be required to pick-up, overhaul, test, deliver, and warrant the Overhaul performed according to the specifications in the solicitation.

Any inquiries concerning this procurement action during the blackout period must be directed to and may only be answered by Juelene Close, Sr. Contract Administrator at (213) 922-1066.

Construction Notices - Patsouras Plaza Busway, Pershing Square Station, I-5

Patsouras Plaza Busway Station Project: I-10 Busway/HOT Lane Closures -- Late Night Only

- The I-10 Busway/HOT Lane on Route I-10, between Alameda Street and Route I-710, will experience intermittent lane closures in both eastbound and westbound directions.
- Closures have been extended through November 10, 10pm - 5am, on weeknights only.

Metro Red Line Pershing Square Station Escalator Replacement Project: 5th Street Entrance

- The newly constructed escalator unit requires a period of testing and will be operated intermittently in both the up and down direction for a period of one week.
- This weekend, the existing "up" escalator will remain operational and the "down" escalator will be unavailable.
- Station elevator access will be maintained at all times and Pedestrian access to the Metro Red Line and to Pershing Square businesses will be maintained, with re-routing clearly marked.

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

“It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey
that matters in the end.”

~ Earnest Hemingway

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