



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tunnel excavation to begin this spring

Metro Celebrates Ceremonial Naming, Lowering of Tunnel Boring Machine for Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project

Today, a segment of Metro's "Harriet," the tunnel boring machine (TBM) that will excavate twin 1-mile tunnels to connect three underground stations for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project, was lowered underground during a ceremonial milestone celebration at the Expo construction yard.

"I can think of no better way to kick off Black History Month than to name the Crenshaw/LAX Line's tunnel boring machine after Harriet Tubman, legendary conductor of the Underground Railroad," Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Chair Mark Ridley-Thomas said.

"I am confident that this marvel of engineering now known as 'Harriet' will carry on its namesake's legacy of forging new paths to greater opportunities," he added.

Ridley-Thomas, also awarded TAP Cards to student winners of the contest to name "Harriet and create an artwork that is prominently displayed at the tail shield of the TBM.

"The ceremonial lowering of the tunnel boring machine marks an important milestone on the construction of this new light-rail line that will connect the communities of Crenshaw, Inglewood and LAX," said Duarte Councilmember and Metro First Vice Chair John Fasana. "It enhances Metro's rail system to offer more transportation options to commuters."

The TBM is lowered by segments and then will be assembled in the next few weeks. Tunnel boring is expected to last approximately 13-months and will connect three underground light rail stations: Crenshaw/Expo, Martin Luther King Jr. and Leimert Park.

"Today is about more about than just launching the tunnel boring machine, it is about the promise we have made to help our communities to move forward. This machine has been named Harriet, in honor of Harriet Tubman, because it represents progress and opportunity," said Los Angeles Mayor and Metro Board Second Vice Chair Eric Garcetti.

"The Crenshaw/LAX Line will serve riders who have been historically under-served. And in doing so, it will ease congestion and will get Angelinos to the people and places they love," L.A. Mayor added.

"As we celebrate this exciting milestone for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project, we want to thank the business community along the alignment for its patience," said City of Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts.

Local restaurants Earlez Grill, Brooklyn Deli, Jordan Hot Dogs and Southern Girl Dessert today are naming a dish "Harriet" to honor the TBM.

"The lowering of the tunnel boring machine is a big milestone for our communities. While Metro begins the underground excavation of tunnels, the Business Interruption Fund, Business Solution Center and the promotional marketing campaign Eat, Shop, Play, will continue assisting the small mom and pop business impacted by the construction of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project," said Metro Board member Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker.

The TBM weighs 950 tons and has a diameter of 21 ½ feet and is 400 feet long. The TBM will dig 60 feet per day. When the TBM reaches Leimert Park Station it will be disassembled and returned to the Expo Yard, where it will be lowered again and launched to excavate the second tunnel.

"The progress we're seeing today is only the first of many exciting milestones we'll experience in 2016," said LA Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. "In March, the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension to Azusa will open and in late spring we will cut the ribbon on the Metro Expo Line extension to Santa Monica. These developments demonstrate that investment in transportation moves our County forward now and in the future."

Naming of the TBM is a mining tradition that dates back to early times. Since the 14th Century, Saint Barbara has been the patron saint of miners, protecting them when they are working underground. This homage to saints evolved into the commemorative naming of tunneling machines with a female name before the digging begins.

The winner of the naming contest is Calvin Mosley, an 11th grade student from City Honors High School in the City of Inglewood, who proposed the name of Harriet Tubman, for an African-American abolitionist and humanitarian. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and

subsequently made some 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. Calvin's proposal received 36.11 percent of the vote in this category.

The winner of the TBM artwork contest is Brittany Hernandez, a 3rd grader from Dr. Lloyd Owen Knox Elementary School in Los Angeles, who received 43.57 percent of the vote in the art category.

The top three naming contest winners are Calvin Mosley "Harriet" (Harriet Tubman) 36.11 percent of City Honors High School; Austin Tebson "Eleanor" (Eleanor Roosevelt) 30.19 percent of West Angeles CDC's Young n LA Bloom and Lauryn Brown, "Sojourner" (Sojourner Truth) 13.42 percent of Inglewood High School.

The three artwork finalists are first place Brittany Hernandez, 3rd grade; Jazmin Zepeda 3rd grader and Johnny Barrera 3rd grade. All are from Dr. Lloyd Owen Knox Elementary School in Los Angeles.

Metro invited students from K through 5th grade to create an art illustration and students from 6th through 12th grade to choose a name via a 200-word essay. Prizes for both categories are TAP cards loaded with fare value of \$300, \$200 or \$100.

Metro received more than 230 essay and artwork submissions from students for the TBM Naming & Artwork Contest. Over 50,000 votes were received online.

About Crenshaw/LAX Line

The 8.5-mile Crenshaw/LAX Line is a \$2.058 billion light-rail line that will connect the Green Line and the Expo Line. It will have eight new stations to serve the Crenshaw, Inglewood and LAX communities. It is expected to open in 2019.

For more information on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project go to metro.net/Crenshaw or join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CrenshawRail> and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/crenshawrail> or call the project hotline (213) 922-2736.

About Metro

Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that is really three companies in one: a major operator that transports about 1.5 million boarding passengers on an average weekday on a fleet of 2,000 clean air buses and six rail lines, a major construction agency that oversees many bus, rail, highway and other mobility related building projects, and it is the lead transportation planning and programming agency for Los Angeles County. Overseeing one of the largest public works programs in America, Metro is, literally, changing the urban landscape of the Los Angeles region. Dozens of transit, highway and other mobility

projects largely funded by Measure R are under construction or in the planning stages. These include five new rail lines, the I-5 widening and other major projects.

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