



LA Metro Wants to Speed Up Two Rail Lines So They're Ready By the 2024 Olympics

Thursday, September 10, 2015, by [Bianca Barragan](#)

Website: <http://la.curbed.com/tags/purple-line-extension>

LA's Olympic dreams include a **big-time renovation** of the **Coliseum** and the creation of athlete housing along the **LA River**, but the Games could also help get two pivotal transportation projects finished **years ahead of schedule**. *The LA Times reports* that Metro has officially asked to participate in a pilot program from the Federal Transit Administration that would kick the construction into overdrive on the **Purple Line extension** and speed up work on the Crenshaw Line's **connection to LAX** so that both are done in time for the 2024 Games that LA might be hosting.

The LAX/rail connection would link the **Crenshaw Line** stop at **Ninety-Sixth Street and Aviation** to a **people-mover train** that will take riders to a transit hub, a rental car facility, and the terminals at LAX. The Crenshaw Line is expected to open in 2019, but the link to LAX is currently scheduled to open four years after the Olympics, in **2028**. If Metro's approved, it would be finished in time for the 2024 Games.

The Purple Line extension is presently planned to open in three sections: the first will run from Western to La Cienega along Wilshire, due in 2024; the second will go from La Cienega to Constellation Avenue in Century City, due in 2025; and the last phase would travel all the way to the Veteran's Affairs campus in West LA and be ready by **2036**. The completion of the subway to the VA would pass **UCLA**, an Olympic venue for sports like water polo.

2036 is 12 years too late for the 2024 Games, but with federal approval and an **"extremely aggressive" construction** schedule that would allow for "concurrent construction" of all three phases of the subway, the Purple Line could be up and running on May 31, 2024, according to a draft schedule included with Metro's request to join the pilot. That's **six weeks** before the start date of the Olympics proposed in the bid book.

The Times notes that winning an Olympic bid often spurs new transit projects, noting that when Salt Lake City won the bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics, they hustled to get two light rail lines running in time for the Games. But LA hasn't won yet; that decision won't be made by the International Olympic Committee until 2017.



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EMPLOYEE NEWS

Employee Spotlight



Johnny Lopez, Parking Administrator, has been a valuable asset to Watt Plaza for the last 3 years. He raises the bar when it comes to assisting and delivering results to our tenants and visitors.

Johnny is very well organized and has an amazing attention for detail. Johnny is always willing to lend a helping hand to his colleagues, one of many attributes which makes him an indispensable part of the Parking Team. The parking team participates in an "Employee of the Quarter" award, which is based on high quality customer service, respect towards fellow employees and overall attitude. The Parking Manager was proud to present Johnny with "Employee of the Quarter" award for 2nd Quarter 2015.

Johnny's pastime includes learning more about modifying vehicles; his recent purchase of a Subaru WRX now prompts him into joining a car club. He also participates in fundraising cycling events like "Tour de Cure" to provide knowledge and awareness of diabetes; health and dieting are important to his lifestyle. He is currently training for October's "Tough Mudder" 2015 Event to be held in Temecula, California. His dream vacation destination is Japan and would love to meet chef "Jiro Ono".

Johnny has proven his commitment to Watt Plaza time and time again through his exemplary performance and near perfect attendance. Thanks for all your hard work Johnny!



2015 Tenant Event Schedule

Here is a quick look at upcoming events:

September

- Quarterly E-Waste Pick-Up: Tuesday, 9/1
- American Cancer Society Table Event: Wednesday, 9/16
- Annual Fire Drill: Wednesday, 9/30 (full building evacuation)

October

- Flu Vaccinations: Wednesday's, 10/7 and 10/14
- Halloween Event: Friday, 10/30

November

- URM Sock & Hygiene Drive: Monday, 11/2 thru Friday, 11/20

EVENTS

Jeans for Life

The "Jeans For Life" Drive collected 65 pairs of jeans during the month of June! Thank you all for your donations, which made this event such a success!

Proceeds of the donated jeans sold through The AIDS Healthcare Foundation's "Out of the Closet" thrift stores will provide AIDS medications for people living with HIV in underdeveloped nations.

Summer Hoedown

We hope you enjoyed our Summer Hoedown Tenant Appreciation Event on July 24th! We value your tenancy here at Watt Plaza and certainly had a great time with this new themed event!



Summer Blood Drive

City of Hope collected 19 units of blood on August 14th. Each donation can save up to 3 lives; 57 patients will benefit from our blood drive! Thank you to all donors, as you have truly made a difference for the lives of many!

NEW TENANTS at Watt Plaza

Please join us in welcoming our newest tenants to Watt Plaza:

- ➔ Bedford Law Group
- ➔ Alliance Consumer Growth, LLC
- ➔ ECC Insurance Brokers
- ➔ Accelerate Partners, Inc.
- ➔ Screen Engine, LLC

Save a lawn, help a planet

RETAIL AMENITIES

Aztec Auto Detailing

Car Wash

310-277-5900

Chase

310-553-8840

Federal Express

310-203-9928

1st Century Bank

310-270-9500

Mystic Flowers & Gardens

310-284-3417

Noble Cleaners

310-552-3377

Notary Services

310-789-2179

On-Call Legal

310-858-9800

Parking:

- Books on Tape (CD's)
- Electric Charging Stations
- Front Door Club

310-789-2178

Starbucks Coffee

310-553-8226

Taco Limon / Pizza Benne

310-286-0464

Trimana

310-772-0726

Trimana Express

310-553-5445

By: Joan Morris

Website: <http://www.cadrought.com/save-a-lawn-help-a-planet/>

If you're feeling guilty about having a mostly green lawn, here's some news that could ease the guilt and even make you feel a bit noble.

Jim Baird, a turf expert with UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, says letting your lawn die is not good for the environment. Lawns help clean the air, keep temperatures low and provide food and home for wildlife.

"People have gone from one extreme to another," Baird said in a media release. "When we weren't in a water crisis, people were watering seven days a week, 365 days a year. Now, people feel like they're doing the right thing by putting no water on their lawn at all."

Baird, a turf specialist with the Cooperative Extension at UC Riverside, says you can maintain an attractive lawn with minimal water. Maintaining a lawn, he says, is much better than letting it die or replacing it with synthetic turf, concrete or even drought tolerant plants.

Artificial turf absorbs heat and on a hot day, your fake lawn can reach 180 degrees. To cool it, you need to water it down. Bare soil, concrete and asphalt also get hot and hold the heat longer than a grassy lawn, which functions like a natural evaporative cooler.

"The more we let our grass lawns die or go away," Baird says, "the hotter it's going to get."

Like all plants, grass plays an important role in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and holding it in the soil, a process that scientists say is important for slowing global warming. Our lawns also provide food and habitat for birds, small mammals, insects, spiders and worms. The lawn alternatives — artificial turf, concrete, asphalt and hard-packed earth — do none of those things.

Those dead patches of hard ground also can add to pollution through water runoff. Properly maintained turf grass is porous, allowing water to filtrate into the ground. Those hard surfaces cause the water to sheet off into storm drains, carrying soil and other things into the waterways.

Baird, who has had a long love affair with green expanses, says he's dismayed by the sight of so many dead and dying lawns, deaths that he calls unnecessary. The massive reduction of so much irrigated land is a short term ecological loss, he says, but when the drought ends, which it surely will eventually do, it will be difficult and expensive to revive them.

"A dead lawn could come back as nothing but weeds," Baird says.

Baird and his colleagues have written an [eight-page publication](#) on managing turf grass under drought conditions that will help homeowners and lawn managers keep their lawns alive with minimal water.

The publication outlines the concept of deficit irrigation, a system in which the grass has just enough water to maintain an adequate appearance, but with less growth. Irrigation can be cut back to two times per week. If the blades spring back after being walked on, the lawn doesn't need more water.

"The grass may not be as lush and green as usual, but you can still have a lawn where kids and pets can play and families can enjoy outdoor barbecues," Baird says.

Additional water savings can be achieved by carefully managing the sprinkler system. Areas shaded by trees or a house need less water than grass with day-long sun exposure. Irrigating before dawn reduces evaporation, leaving more water for the plant roots to absorb. Using sprinklers when there is less wind will help prevent overspray onto sidewalks and the street.

"We suggest homeowners test their sprinklers by placing cans around the lawn and running the sprinklers to see if water is being applied uniformly," Baird said. "This also provides the opportunity for them to see if there are any broken sprinklers or leaks that need to be repaired."

Mowing practices also impact the lawn's water use. The grass should be maintained at the tallest height recommended for the species being grown to encourage development of deep roots. Leaving the grass clippings on the lawn with a mulching mower will reduce evaporation from the soil surface.

If new lawns are being considered, water use can be cut by selecting a turf grass species that uses less water. For example, Baird is studying kikuyugrass in plots at UC Riverside Turf Grass Research Facility. A native of East Africa, kikuyugrass is well adapted to warm, temperate climates in coastal areas and inland valleys of Southern and Central California. Other drought-tolerant grasses being studied at the facility are Bermuda grass and seashore paspalum.

For professional landscapers and home gardeners interested in detailed turf grass research information, UC ANR is hosting a [Turf grass and Landscape Research Field Day](#) Sept. 17. Registration is \$90 before Aug. 28, \$100 on or after Aug. 28 and \$120 onsite. The complete agenda, registration form and previous research reports can be found on the website.



Walk together.
And we'll
never
walk
alone.

October 17th is only the beginning.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Los Angeles
Microsoft Square at L.A. Live | 8:00 AM
MakingStridesWalk.org/LosAngeles | 800.227.2345

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REMINDERS

RJ Westmore Training

Watt Plaza is partnered with RJ Westmore to provide our tenants with the most current Emergency Preparedness Training for the following areas/topics:

FIRE LIFE SAFETY
FLOOR WARDEN
EARTHQUAKE
BOMB THREAT
MEDICAL EMERGENCY
POWER FAILURE

Please note in accordance with the Los Angeles Fire Life Safety Code it is mandatory for all High Rise Occupants to participate in the online training.

You can find more information on our online tenant handbook at the following direct link:
<http://www.wattplaza.info/main.cfm?pg=coverview&pgnum=1&sid=e-procedures&pid=eptraining>

Watt Plaza Electronic Tenant Handbook

www.wattplaza.com

The information provided in our Electronic Tenant® Handbook is intended to provide you with a clear understanding of Watt Plaza and to facilitate your company's operations. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the helpful information provided and note that the Building Management Office is available to assist with any inquiries or concerns.

