



King County

# RAIL SECTION TIMES

METRO—DOT LINK LIGHT RAIL & STREETCAR NEWS



## Light Rail & Streetcar Managing Director Update

In September 2017, Executive Constantine announced his proposal to make Metro its own department within King County. This transition from division to department (d2D) is underway with a goal of reaching department status in early 2019. As part of this larger organizational change, it has been identified that Rail will be transitioning from a section to a division (s2d) within Metro. It is currently anticipated that this change will also occur by early 2019.

Rail becoming a Metro division recognizes the important role that we play in supporting regional transportation through our relationships with Sound Transit and the City of Seattle. It is also a testament to the tremendous success and growth of our Rail system, which couldn't happen without your dedication to excellence in the work you do every day.

While the s2d process is currently being developed, I wanted you to be aware of this

change, and to ask you to stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. I want this process to be clear and open to all employees and will ensure there are avenues to keep you informed and for you to have a say. This is an exciting time for us for Rail to grow, to think creatively, and to do things we haven't done before. I encourage all of you to join in the transformation.

— Michael Avery



### Inside this issue:

John Helm's 50 Year Service Award	1
Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Update	2
2018 Link Employees of Year	3
Employee Promotions	4
New Light Rail Employees	5
Rail News	5

## Celebrating John Helm's 50 Years of Service

Metro thanked John Helm for his 50 years of service with a celebration at the Link OMF dining hall. John received praise for his big heart, calm demeanor, and professionalism. He was honored with two plaques for his longevity.

John reached this amazing milestone on Wednesday, March 7, which was 50 years to the day since he first became a bus driver for the Seattle Transit System, a predecessor to METRO and King County Metro.

He grew up a Kansas farm boy from a big family, where he learned to give and take, cooperate and do the chores you are supposed to do – and with a big heart he says he

(Continued on page 2)

*"Without education and transportation it's hard to make it out here. I can't imagine how many thousands of lives you've changed. They're out there."*

-Terry White, Deputy General Manager



Left to right: Terry White, John Helm, Michael Avery, and Hollie Alejandria.

## Continued—John Helm’s 50 Years of Service

*(Continued from page 1)*

inherited from his mom and dad. At 21-and-a-half-years-old, he had just finished serving in Vietnam and needed a job. Seattle Transit System asked him if he could start the next week. The years came and went as the region boomed, and transit service expanded. He was an Eastside bus driver, and selected by his peers to be Metro Operator of the Year in 1996. When he reached the 40 year mark, he said he would have retired.

But then came Link light rail. “What little boy doesn’t want to become a train engineer? It just was a dream come true,” he said.

With his safety record and seniority, he was one of 55 bus drivers in 2008 to train and become the first class of operators of Sound Transit’s

Link light rail. He was selected to carry dignitaries on the inaugural ride of Link in 2009. Fast forward to today, he’s 72, and reflecting on how he got where he is today. It takes determination, enjoying your job and the people you work with, he said.

“I had a good support group, most of them right back here,” he said, pointing to his wife Pam, his sons and son-in-law, his grandson, sisters-in-law, and his best friend.

There’s another ingredient in 50 years. Got to be love, right? Got to be love, said Terry White, Metro’s operations manager.

We at Rail are grateful that John has chosen to spend the rest of his Transit career with us and that we continue to have the opportunity to work with him.



*John receiving his 50 Year Service Award.*



*John with his wife (Pam) at the 50 Year Service Award celebration.*



*John and Don Brady were honored for 40-45 years of safe driving in 2014.*

*Left to Right: John Helm and Donald Brady*



*First operator graduating class in December 2008.*

*Left to Right: Erin Clark, John Helm, Thomas Compare, Hazel Henderson, Frank King, Michael James Gorham and Fredrick Cunningham.*

## Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 2018 Update

King County Metro operates Sound Transit’s Link Light Rail system based on an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the agencies. The current IGA is set to expire in July 2019. Metro and ST are currently in the process of negotiating a longer IGA extension. Both agencies recognize the value of allowing

ST to best meet its service and efficiency goals while providing Metro with a more definite term for the need of its services.

The goal is to have a new agreement in place later this year and we will provide updates as we know more.



# 2017 LINK EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

## **Congratulations Louis DiFazio** **2017 LINK Employee of the Year** **Way Power and Signals**

Louis possesses superior customer service skills as well as astronomical technical skills. Louis has been nominated for the Way, Power & Signals employee of the year annually since he joined WP&S. This is in part due to his integrity to courageously operate within his role with an extraordinary level of professionalism, transparency and respect.

Louis is always accessible to his peers and customers. Louis delivers technical training that is available to everyone whom requires it. Louis is reliable, competent and he does things with poise regardless of the situation.



## **Congratulations Luis Garcia-Salinas** **2017 LINK Employee of the Year** **Facilities**



Luis Garcia-Salinas was nominated by his peers as Facilities Employee of the Year. Luis started with Rail in August 2015 as a Rail Laborer. He was promoted to Grounds Specialist in September 2017.

Luis is a bright young man that is always smiling and willing to assist in any way he can.

## Congratulations James Levingston 2017 LINK Employee of the Year Vehicle Maintenance

James Levingston AKA “The Rock star” has a positive can do attitude that is evident in everything he does.

He has exceptional attendance and serves all of his customers with a sincere smile.

James has an eye for detail, creating new ways to track our data and looks for methods to streamline the business.

He always keeps his cool amidst stressful situations, finding a resolution that works for all and does whatever is needed to support everyone in his department.

James is an exceptional individual and a well liked member of our team.

He is our “Rock star” and is deserving of the VM Employee of the Year!



# Employee Promotions

*Join us in congratulating the following employees who have had promotions in 2018.*

EMPLOYEE	DEPARTMENT	PREVIOUS POSITION	NEW POSITION
Joanie Guillen	WPS	Laborer	Track Maintainer
Keith Willett	WPS	Signals and Communications Tech	Signals and Communications Lead
Pete Dalrymple	WPS	TLT Rail Electrical Worker	Career Service Rail Electrical Worker
Terry Simmons	WPS	TLT Rail Electrical Worker	Career Service Rail Electrical Worker
Forrest McCoy	VM → WPS	Electro Mechanic	Signals and Communications Tech
Marcus Willson	VM → Training	Electro Mechanic	Rail Technical Trainer

# WELCOME TO KC LINK LIGHT RAIL'S NEW EMPLOYEES

*Please welcome these new editions to KC Link Light Rail's staff.*



**Maria Anderson**  
Rail Electrical Worker

**Binyam Belay**  
Rail Service Worker

**Michael Estalilla**  
Rail Service Worker

**Titus Hinga**  
Rail Electrical Worker

**Harrison Pugh**  
Administrative Support Specialist

**Ham Teang**  
Signal & Comm Tech

**Latwan Wells**  
Rail Service Worker

## RAIL NEWS

### CDL Medical Exam Reimbursement Changes

One of the new provisions in the ATU contract relates to benefit coverage for required CDL medical exams, including reimbursement for those who aren't covered by one of the County's medical insurance plans. There are now two ways that CDL medical exams will be reimbursed:

**ATU-covered Employees on KingCare Medical Plan:** You do not have to go to your PPO for your CDL medical exam. US HealthWorks is a Regence in-network provider.

**US HealthWorks**  
3223 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue S, Suite C  
Seattle, WA 98134  
(206) 624-3651

When making an appointment with US HealthWorks, please tell US HealthWorks that you have coverage under the King County's ATU plan, and that the exam should be billed to Regence as: 99456

*– Work related or medical disability examination by other than the treating physician (such as US Health Works or similar clinics approved to conduct CDL medical examinations).*

**ATU-covered Employees on the Kaiser Permanente Medical Plan:** CDL medical examinations are provided at the following Kaiser Permanente medical offices. Call the medical office directly to schedule your appointment:

**Burien Medical Center**  
140 SW 146<sup>th</sup> Street  
Burien, WA 98166  
(206) 630-3001

**Capitol Hill Campus**  
201 – 16<sup>th</sup> Ave E  
Seattle, WA 98112  
(206) 326-3000

If you are an ATU represented employee and have opted out of County medical insurance because of coverage under a spouse or parents' insurance plan, or coverage from another non-County source, please submit a Reimbursement Form.

*Please contact Amanda Craig, Kelli Cutright, Lauren Griffiths, Trish Parker or Harrison Pugh if you have any questions.*

## department to Division (d2D) Update—March 2018

### Why is Metro becoming a department?

The King County Executive has called for Metro to become its own department within King County. A big reason is that demand for transit is rising as our county sees rapid growth in jobs and population – and in the number of low income residents who rely on our services. Our region is counting on Metro to provide more and better transit options that are cost-effective, equitable, and accessible to all. Being our own department will help us deliver on this expectation.



### Strategic Goals

The aim of this work is to enable Metro to deliver on these strategic goals:

- 1. Make transit easy to use and available to all** – Provide integrated, equitable and accessible mobility service
- 2. Get things built** – Accelerate the development of transit infrastructure that is critical to service growth
- 3. Partner with others** – Amplify the capacity of our system through partnerships cities and others
- 4. Enable employees to do top-quality work** – Deliver by building a highly motivated and high-performing workforce.

### Employee Town Halls and Confabs

Employee engagement is essential throughout this process. Many town halls with employees have already been held and several work groups were created to discuss important d2D topics. Several hundred employees also shared ideas at d2D confabs held in January and February of this year.

There will be more opportunities for you to voice your thoughts during town halls being planned for this April and May. Specific times and dates for these meetings will be posted soon.

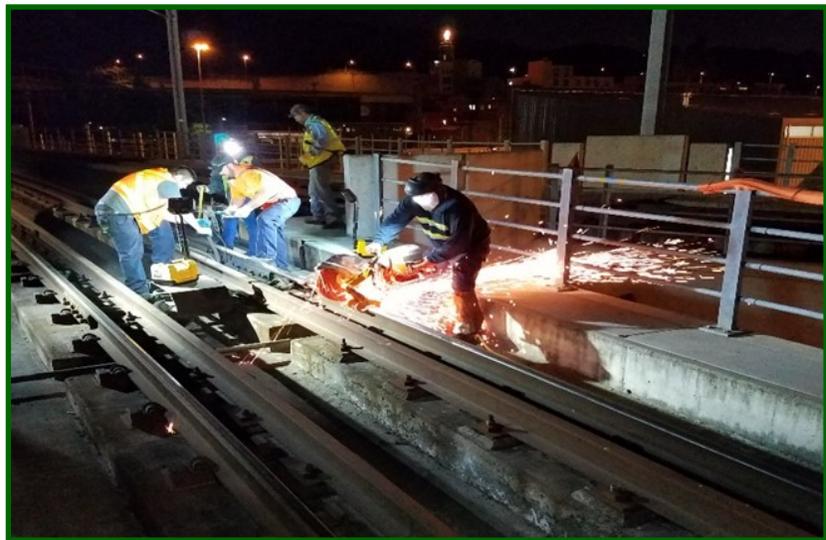
You can also share your thoughts by emailing [AskRob@kingcounty.gov](mailto:AskRob@kingcounty.gov) or calling 206-477-4977.

## WPS Repairs Yard Entrance

Last September 10<sup>th</sup> a 50 foot section of rail was removed and replaced on the Yard Entrance Aerial Guideway South Bound track. This critical repair was in one of the most vital sections along the alignment to everyday operation, serving as the main route access in and out of the yard.

Way, Power and Signal’s employees from the Track & ROW, Signals & Communications, and Traction Power groups in conjunction with Operations and Vehicle Maintenance, planned and executed this repair without any impact to passenger service. Included in this replacement was a new insulated joint as well as the removal and installation of new rail web bonds supporting the signals system and the traction power negative return system.

Normally, this work would require a single-track work zone and 10 hours of time from start



WPS team replacing the 50-foot section of rail on the Yard Entrance Aerial Guideway South Bound track

to finish, which would put trains well behind optimum operating headways and schedules. Through this well coordinated effort, and having the right people, with the right training, and outfitted with the right tools, these groups pulled off the

entire repair during the middle of the night without a hiccup.

*“Normally, this work would require a single-track work zone and 10 hours of time from start to finish”*

## Rail Supervisor Team Nominated for Wall of Fame

The Rail Supervisor Team was nominated for the 2018 King County Metro Wall of Fame. The team is a unique group who come to work each day prepared to work in the field, as a dispatcher/planner, a LINK Train Controller or a combination of the three. The group was nominated due to their efforts to maintain operations through serious staffing shortages in the first nine months of 2017.

During this period, Rail Supervisors were called upon regularly to operate trains in service and act as LINK Control Center (LCC) Chiefs. The group faced these staffing challenges while maintaining the excellent

safety record that the Rail Section has provided since passenger service began.

The dispatch/planners were especially resourceful in making service targets by drawing on all available operators, technical trainers, and their fellow supervisors to meet service needs. The field supervisors excelled in responding to routine end emergency incidents and managing crowds at Husky Stadium. The LCC controllers handled the stress of emergency management in a composed professional manner and restored service as soon as safely possible.

All efforts of this group in the past year have demonstrated their determination, Drive and commitment to providing safe, reliable, on-time service to the public. Our Rail Supervisor Team plays an integral role in achieving all four of our business drivers.

Rail Supervisor Team		
Salah Abdi	Daryoush Hakki	Nicholas Routh
Dan Brown	Annette James	Shannon Shay
Glenn Brockett	Kavin James	Joshua Shields
Al DeSart	Douglas Lane	Alan Siciliano
Ted Edmondson	Dennis Maguire	Dorothy Stankowski
Steven Eng	Daniel Mathews	Justin Swanson
Matt Gemmill	Douglas Moore	Kevin Winter



(Above Left; left to right): Doug Lane, Josh Shields, Alan Siciliano, Matt Gemmill, Ted Edmondson, and Yuriy Yavorskyy. (Above Right; left to right): Nitten Sanger, Salah Abdi, Kevin Winter, Glenn Brockett, Jefferson Eusell. (Not Pictured): Dan Brown, Al DeSart, Steven Eng, Daryoush Hakki, Annette James, Kavin James, Dennis Maguire, Daniel Mathews, Douglas Moore, Nicolas Routh, Shannon Shay, Dorothy Stankowski, and Justin Swanson.

## International Society of Automation (ISA) Visits Light Rail

*ISA “is comprised of more than 40,000 worldwide members in various technology fields “*

On Tuesday, February 27th, the Local Chapter of the International Society of Automation was hosted for a tour by the SCADA & Signals Group in Rail. The ISA was originally founded in 1945 as the Instrument Society of America and is comprised of more than 40,000 worldwide members in various technology fields such as electronics, automation, and programming.

The Local Chapter President, Brian Mast, first contacted SCADA & Signals Chief, Mike Erickson, to discuss the opportunity for a tour a few months ago. It was at that moment that Mike realized that the ISA and other professional



Bob Hopper discussing the SCADA screen content with ISA.

(Continued on page 8)

## Continued—ISA Visits Light Rail

(Continued from page 7)



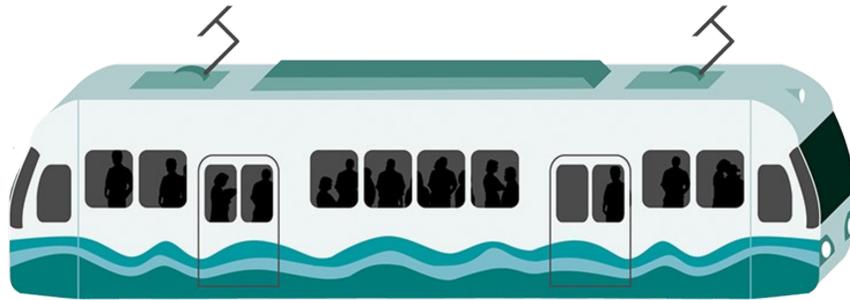
Carl Offenheiser discussing the concept of shunting with ISA.

organizations were great sources for promoting the work we do in Rail and creating an awareness of the type of jobs that we have in Rail.

During the tour, the ISA members ranging from Engineers to Electronic/Electrical students and one incredible 26 year old finishing up his PhD at the University of Washington, we're fascinated by the cleanliness of the facility including LRV garage. The Backup Link Control Center (LCC) was a

great source of discussion in regards to how the various systems interacted with each other as well as the number of personnel involved with the entire Link Operation.

Other interesting topics included the number of systems integrated with the SCADA system as well as cybersecurity issues. Moving into the future of the various rail extensions, some questions were related to just how we will manage rail traffic in the various regions and extensions.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The Rail Section Times Editorial Staff sends a big shout out to all who participated in putting together this issue of the Rail Section Times. Thank you for your willingness to send in your personal submissions. All of this help is greatly appreciated.

The Editorial staff invite everyone in the Rail Section to submit any stories, or suggestions for future articles.

If you'd Like to participate, please send your submission to:

Harrison.Pugh@SoundTransit.org



***Thanks,***  
**RAIL SECTION TIMES**