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A Million Dollar Milestone for Metro

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has issued a combined total of \$1 million in financial assistance to mom-and-pop businesses affected by the construction of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project, and more help is on the way.

Acting on a motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Metro approved the creation of a Business Interruption Fund (BIF) last year to offset up to \$50,000 in lost revenue per year that can be attributed to ongoing work on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project, the Regional Connector, and the Purple Line Extension – Phase 1.

Among the recent grants that pushed the BIF past the \$1-million milestone was a \$15,018.66 check to The New Millennium Beauty and Barber Shop at 4306 Crenshaw Blvd., not far from where crews in hard hats are building Leimert Park Station.

“Local businesses are the lifeline of a community,” he said. “Since construction began on the Crenshaw/LAX line, our small businesses have been asked to endure dust, noise, and significant disruption to their daily operations.”

“This million-dollar milestone represents a significant and well-deserved investment in the Crenshaw Corridor,” he added. “It demonstrates Metro’s commitment to helping local small businesses not only survive, but be ready to thrive when the Crenshaw/LAX rail line reopens.”

“This grant is a true blessing,” said Desentrie Allen, owner of The New Millennium, a sports-themed establishment whose barber chairs match the Los Angeles Lakers’ purple-and-gold color scheme. “It’s a great thing,” added barber Tren Seta.

To date, 62 small businesses have received grants since Metro, through its contractor Pacific Coast Regional Small Business Development Corporation, began administering the BIF in February. To apply, [click here](#) or call (213) 739-2999 or (866) 301-9989, extension 223.

“We need to ensure that the transformation of L.A.’s public transportation into a world-class transit system does not adversely impact our small businesses,” Los Angeles Mayor and Metro board member Eric Garcetti said.

“The fact that Metro has already awarded more than \$1 million in grants to help small businesses that have been adversely impacted by rail construction is proof this agency backs its words with action,” added Metro board member Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker.

Under the rules, businesses directly impacted by construction of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project, the Regional Connector, and the Purple Line Extension – Phase 1 can be awarded more than one grant, but the total cannot exceed 60 percent of revenue losses or \$50,000 annually.

To qualify, businesses must have at least two years of continuous operating history; 25 or fewer total employees; be in good standing with local, state and federal taxing and licensing authorities; and be able to produce gross receipts, payroll taxes, bank statements or other financial information that prove revenue losses due to construction disruption.

The \$2-billion Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project is an [8.5-mile north-south light rail line](#) that will start at the Expo Line in Leimert Park, pass through the Crenshaw District, Hyde Park and Inglewood, and connect to the Green Line not far from the Los Angeles International Airport. It is slated for completion in 2019.

Aside from the BIF, mom-and-pop businesses affected by the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project can seek assistance at Metro’s [Business Solution Center](#) and participate in Metro’s [Eat, Shop, Play Crenshaw](#) promotional campaign.

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