
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Paul Gonzales
Public Information Officer
562-599-8534/work
562-760-0848/cell
pgonzales@lbtransit.com

LONG BEACH TRANSIT EMPLOYEES DONATE BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO STUDENTS IN NEED

LONG BEACH, CALIF., (October 5, 2017) – Employees of Long Beach Transit (LBT) today donated backpacks, pencils, pens, notebooks, non-perishable food items and personal hygiene supplies in cooperation with the Back to School Drive of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Southern California Chapter. The donated supplies benefit the Long Beach Unified School District's (LBUSD) Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center for Homeless Students Program.

“Long Beach Transit fosters employee engagement and promotes a focus on community as part of our organizational priorities. The level of employee participation reflects the deep commitment LBT has for the communities we serve,” said LBT Chief Executive Officer Kenneth McDonald.

LBUSD's Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center provides over 500 homeless students each year with referrals for health exams, tutoring and mental health counseling, and provides transportation and necessities such as school uniforms, backpacks, hygiene packs, and school supplies. In 2015, the Center earned a national Recognition of Excellence award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for creating “an innovative facility to serve homeless children.”

“On behalf of the families we serve, please accept our heartfelt thanks for the donation of school supplies. The generous gift of LBT employees through the COMTO Back to School Drive will enable LBUSD to serve more students and their families affected by homelessness,” said Director of Student Support Services, Dr. Erin M. Simon.

COMTO was founded in 1971 to provide a forum for minority professionals in the transportation industry with a mission of ensuring opportunities and maximizing participation in the industry for individuals, businesses and communities of color through advocacy, training and professional development.

In addition to LBT, the COMTO Back to School Drive was supported by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), Foothill Transit and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) to benefit similar programs within their service areas.

About Long Beach Transit

Long Beach Transit serves 26 million annual boarding customers in Long Beach, Lakewood and Signal Hill—as well as portions of Artesia, Bellflower, Carson, Cerritos, Compton, Hawaiian Gardens, Los Alamitos, Norwalk, and Paramount and Seal Beach. Water taxi services via AquaBus and AquaLink are available spring through fall. For more information visit, www.lbtransit.com.

###