

Top Dallas Transit Official Picked to Head MTA in Los Angeles County



New MTA CEO
Roger Snoble

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(June 20, 2001) The MTA Board of Directors today hired Roger Snoble of Dallas, one of the top public transit officials in the nation, to become the MTA's new CEO effective in September. The Board's action was unanimous.

Snoble, 56, has been president/executive director of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit District (DART) since 1994. He will replace Julian Burke, who announced last January his plans to retire once a successor was selected. Burke has been the MTA CEO since August 1997.

Snoble's career in public transportation spans 36 years. Prior to joining DART he served as president and general manager of the San Diego Transit Corporation, where he worked for 20 years, rising in the ranks from planning and scheduling manager to the top executive post.

Snoble began his transportation career in 1965 as a planner for the TriCounty Regional Planning Commission in Akron. He also worked as a planner for Akron Metro Transit District from 1971-1973.

Won numerous awards

The new MTA CEO has won numerous awards. The American Public Transit Association (APTA) named Snoble Transit Manager of the Year in 1998. Under Snoble's leadership, DART was cited by APTA as the Transit Agency of the Year in 1997.

Snoble was one of five finalists for the top transit post in Los Angeles County recruited in a nationwide search.

"Roger Snoble is widely regarded as one of the top transit executives in the nation," said MTA Board Chair and Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke. "It was a real coup to recruit him. He was the only candidate who manages a transportation agency similar to MTA that operates a multi-modal transit system, builds infrastructure and also is responsible for regional transportation planning and programming."

Gordon Linton, former head of the Federal Transit Administration, agrees.

"Roger has been instrumental in the growth of the Dallas Metroplex," Linton said. "His skills and the respect he enjoys in the industry bodes well for the continued improvement and growth of the MTA in Los Angeles. I think Roger will be able to build on the foundation that has been established by Julian Burke."

MTA CEO Julian Burke said he was proud that Snoble would succeed him. "The MTA is a lot more stable than it was when I arrived four years ago, but now it's time to turn to a transportation expert to move Los Angeles forward. No one has a better reputation than Roger Snoble."

Highly respected manager

Roger Yagura, president and general manager of San Diego Transit where Snoble worked for 20 years, echoed those sentiments. Yagura said Snoble was a highly respected manager who worked well with staff, elected

officials and the community and was able to bring consensus on key projects.

"MTA is the biggest agency of its kind in the country with a truly multimodal approach to moving people," Snoble said. "It represents a rare challenge in the American transit industry."

Snoble was given a four-year contract to manage the MTA.

As the head of DART, Snoble's current annual base salary is \$218,200 a year, however, the cost-of-living in Los Angeles is nearly 60 percent higher than in Dallas according to research firms that compare the cost-of-living in major U.S. cities.

In recognition of higher real estate, state income taxes, and other expenses in Los Angeles, the MTA Board agreed to pay Snoble an annual base salary of \$295,000 to become the MTA's chief executive officer.

Snoble earned a bachelor of science degree in geography and a master of arts degree in economic geography from the University of Akron, Ohio. He is married with two grown sons.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about Dallas Area Rapid Transit, go to www.dart.org on the World Wide Web.

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