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Employees rally around CEO Snoble for a fond farewell. [Find yourself](#): Click on the image to download print-sized version. *Photo by Gary Leonard*

Employee Send-off Pays Heartfelt Tribute to Departing CEO Roger Snoble

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

Inching closer to a life of leisure in Palm Springs, Metro's CEO Roger Snoble received a train-load of accolades complete with a red carpet event, a few gag gifts and a slice of chocolate cake at the first of two farewell events planned for the departing CEO.

At Thursday's board meeting, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa presented Snoble with a resolution calling him a "great and public servant," who "cleaned up the city's bus service, expanded rail, and spearheaded the passage of Measure R, the 30-year sales tax that is expected to further improve public transportation."

Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Zev Yaroslavsky said, "I think the most significant thing you've achieved for this agency is ultimately restoring the credibility of this agency with our taxpayers, with our constituents."

Snoble received a standing ovation upon accepting the mayor's gift and said, "Serving as Metro's CEO for the past seven-and-a-half years has been a tremendous honor as well as my capstone to my 45-year career in transportation."

He likened Metro to a "transportation laboratory" where he had the "privilege and pleasure of living, working and playing."

"I feel sort of like Moses. With the passage of Measure R, I helped part

the seas, but I'm not going on to the promise land with you. Art Leahy will have that privilege," he said, referring to Metro's newly-hired CEO who is expected to take over April 6.

"We had a great ride together. Thank you," he said.

Later, CEO Snoble and his wife, Kit, greeted scores of Metro employees from the red carpet in front of the Gateway building where he received tearful hugs, handshakes and more words of appreciation along with a few gag gifts.

General Manager, Rail Operations Mike Cannell said Snoble was a major reason why he chose to take his Metro job because he'd be working with "one of the most honest, humble persons" in the industry.

Chief Operations Officer Carolyn Flowers provided Snoble with a service award thanking him for his leadership. "We're going to miss you," she said.

Chief Administrative Services Officer Lonnie Mitchell presented Snoble with two versions of a retirement badge, one with his early Metro mug, and the second with today's photo.

Snoble thanked everyone again saying, "No one person really does anything by themselves. It takes a lot of people."

He said Metro's employees accomplished a lot, and he rallied everyone to continue their hard work. He was moved to tears when the thanked his immediate staff.

"I'm going to keep an eye on all of you. I going to make sure that I know what's going on and hear what's going on," he said.

Snoble's final farewell is set for Thursday, April 2, in the Walt Disney Concert Hall Blue Ribbon Garden on Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles.

Stayed tuned for continuing coverage. Next up: Slide show of employee tribute and event video.