M NEWS

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TWO SECTORS TO DEBUT JULY 1
MTA CEO HIRES GENERAL MANAGERS FOR THREE TRANSIT SERVICE SECTORS

MTA CEO Roger Snoble today announced the hiring of general managers for the first three of five transit service sectors currently in development. In making the announcement, Snoble said a final decision as to their service sector assignments would be made at a later date.

"Hiring these three outstanding candidates marks a significant step in our plan to localize every aspect of the planning and operation of Metro Bus service," said Snoble. "Each general manager will lead a group of transit professionals whose sole focus will be to bring quality service to their assigned sector."

"All three have worked at multiple agencies and will bring a wealth of management and leadership experiences to very challenging positions," he added.

The three general manager designates are David J. Armijo, Jack Gabig and Richard J. Rogers.

For the past six years, Armijo has served as Director of Operations for the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) where he managed the agency's bus and paratransit services, Metrolink commuter rail services and the Orange County Taxi Administration Program.

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During Armijo's tenure at OCTA, bus ridership increased by 40 percent and commuter rail ridership doubled. He oversaw the start-up of a 232-vehicle LNG (liquid natural gas) bus fleet, as well as the design and implementation of a $14 million computerized radio dispatch communication system with satellite automated vehicle location.

Gabig served as general manager of Montebello Bus Lines for the past 12 years, supervising a staff of 200 employees and overseeing a 75-vehicle bus and paratransit service. His prior positions include director of maintenance and director of planning and marketing for Long Beach Transit.

Gabig's major accomplishments at Montebello Bus Lines include the implementation of effective cost controls, a strong maintenance program, and construction of a regional rail station and transit center.

Rogers serves as vice president of Transportation Concepts where he manages all transit, shuttle and paratransit contracts. The company provides these services throughout Southern California, including in San Bernardino, Riverside, Corona, Santa Monica, East Los Angeles, the Crenshaw District, West Hollywood, Glendale and Carson.

Rogers' accomplishments include generating a 400 percent growth in business, enhancement of service quality and improved productivity through the restructuring of transit operations.

The San Fernando Valley and San Gabriel Valley service sectors will begin operations July 1. A third sector – either the Gateway sector in southeast Los Angeles County or the South Bay sector – will begin operations later in the year. Plans are to begin operations in the remaining two sectors before the end of 2003.

MTA CEO Snoble and Deputy CEO John Catoe designed the service sector concept with the intent to give communities a direct voice in the delivery of transportation services in their sectors. Community councils will provide recommendations to sector general managers who will evaluate and implement changes and improvements in transit services within the sector.

Each sector manager will oversee the operation of a fleet of approximately 400 to 600 buses. In addition to operations and maintenance personnel, each sector will include its own human resources, planning, scheduling, marketing and public affairs staff.

"Giving a sector its own dedicated staff will make MTA much more responsive to the unique and changing needs of a particular community," said Snoble. "Our customers will know that the men and women who staff their sector will also have a stake in making bus service in their communities the very best that it can be."

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