

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CEO

A weekly report
from the office
of the CEO

April 3, 1995



Beginning in mid-April and continuing through 1996, the MTA will be taking delivery of 294 compressed natural gas (CNG) buses, the largest order of its kind in the country.

CNG buses reflect our commitment to provide Angelenos with cost-effective, clean, safe and reliable transportation. The buses run on the same gas that has been used for cooking and heating for more than 40 years.

I'm especially pleased because the buses have several additional features designed to increase rider comfort. The interior features have been changed to a lighter, brighter, more visually appealing decor. Graffiti and vandal resistant materials have been used throughout the interior and exterior of the bus to protect our investment and help reduce costs.

San Fernando Valley and Sun Valley residents will begin riding 46 new CNG buses, to be put into service at Division 15 in early May. In August, Division 8 will begin service of the Chatsworth, Reseda and Van Nuys area with 50 CNG buses. And Division 10 will serve the central Los Angeles area with more than 100 CNG buses by early 1996.

Information sessions on CNG buses will be provided by Operations and Human Resources staff in mid-May. I urge you to attend one of these sessions so you can share my enthusiasm for these new environmentally clean buses.

Goal is to Clean Bus Interiors

The redesigned CNG buses are an example of our intention to make our product better. Our next priority is to do a better job of cleaning the inside of our buses and to do so even though the number of employees assigned to do the job is shrinking.

Aim to Layoff as Few as Possible

Calls about potential layoffs continue to come in. The organization has already been through two very difficult years. We will seek to make the layoffs as small as possible. The goal is an announcement in May.

Driving the layoffs is, of course, the impending budget deficit which may jump to \$100 million for the next fiscal year. We have been hit hard at the farebox, with ridership off at least six percent over last year's. Most

of our ridership fall-off is due to the strike and to uncertainty over the fare. Our job now is to get those riders back.

Are We Doing a Good Job In Construction?

I'm asked all the time about our construction efforts and if I think we're doing a good job to minimize construction claims and complaints. The science of engineering is not perfect. The fact is no one anywhere has ever built a system of this size and complexity without troublesome occurrences. It goes with the territory, and the fact that humans beings are building the system means that all will not go smoothly. Some may say these are excuses, but when you cut to the bottom line, this is the reality. We need continually to put into context the things that have happened. The record on this project is as good as any other of its type.

Organization Chart Released Next Week

For those of you curious about the organizational structure (who reports to who), a new organizational chart and new phone books will be issued next week, according to Shaker Sawires.

New Deputy CEO Rumor

I was surprised to hear the latest rumor circulating about my announcement of a deputy CEO. Where do these things come from? Please know that this person is a new addition to the staff and not a replacement of an executive officer. As I told you several months ago, Kim Kimball will remain in his current position until the new deputy CEO has arrived and will be assigned new responsibilities at that time.

Executive officers will report to the deputy CEO on a day-to-day basis so that I will have more time to concentrate on policy and on legislative and funding issues in Washington and Sacramento.

New CFO

There are several new staff announcements I'm pleased to make this week. Please welcome our new chief financial officer, Ronny Jane Goldsmith, who comes to

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us from AC Transit in Oakland, where she was CFO and assistant general manager. Ronny, who holds a Ph.D. from Temple University, was responsible for the management of seven departments at AC Transit, including budget and grants, employee benefits, risk management, treasury, accounting, purchasing, and information services.

She previously served as the director of finance for the city of Berkeley from 1986 to 1990, and was a fiscal advisor to the city council of Baltimore from 1980 to 1986. Ronny also taught graduate courses in public finance as a visiting professor at the Johns Hopkins University and was an assistant professor at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

New Deputy CAO, Materiel, Management and Procurement

Also joining our team is Art Kimball, who has been selected the new deputy chief administrative officer, materiel, management, and procurement. Art comes to us from BART, where he served as procurement manager, administering four divisions, including purchasing, contracts, inventory management and warehousing.

Prior to BART, Art was the managing director of purchasing for Pan Am Airways, and in the '80s, held management procurement positions with the New York City Transit Authority. Art was educated at Queens College, of the City University of New York, and in 1986 received the Outstanding Leadership award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Ronny and Art will begin with us during the first week in May.

Length of Service Pins

Many of you have received MTA pins commemorating years of service to the agency and its predecessors. They are coming in in batches, and won't be entirely here until June. So don't worry if you're due one and haven't received it yet. It's on its way. Congratulations!

Speaking Engagements

Please note my following calendar dates:

I held a "Brown Bag" with Human Resources on April 4 and a "Coffee" with Internal Audit on April 6. On April 7, I will meet with employees at Division 3 in Cypress Park.

On April 12, I'll be speaking to the Southeast Mayors and Cities Council, and later in the month, to the San Fernando Valley Transportation Focus Group. At my meetings with outside groups, I talk about our new 20-year plan, that we've adopted a bus and some rail — targeted rail — strategy. I like to say that it's a "rail-last, not a rail-first" plan, since if there's a cheaper way to move people, then we ought to do it first.

That's why our plan provides substantial investments in buses.

Blood Drive Results

Cheers to the employees in the 425 Building, who turned out en masse last week to donate blood at the annual drive sponsored by the American Red Cross. This was a record turn-out — we collected over 70 pints, according to Wellness Coordinator Luanna Urie. She was pleased because although the building's employees have declined by a third, they collected over a third more blood than ever before. Kudos to long-time employee Jon Vandercook of the 425 Building who, over a period of time, has given more than 7 3/4 gallons of blood! Also, I received word that Division 10 TOS Ted Neill has now donated more than 80 pints — that's 10 gallons — of blood. My congratulations!

Mammography Screening

Mammography screenings will be available at the 425 Building on Wednesday, April 19 from 9 - 11:30 a.m. and from 1 - 3 p.m. at the 818 Building. The program is open to all employees of MTA and their spouses. The fee is \$75. Call for an appointment at 1-800-400-6648.

Classification/Compensation Update

Many of you are asking about the status of the appeals process in the classification/compensation review. The class./comp. team, led by Vera Mae Walsh, has been very busy in the last month. The executive officers have forwarded to Vera all of the requests they thought had merit; and Vera has logged in all of their requests for review — about five percent of the non-contract employees. The team is beginning its in-depth review this week.

Also, the pay equity review has been preliminarily completed. We'll keep you posted.

Just so you know, classification specifications have been completed and will be sent to managers soon.

Employee Rideshare News

Please complete the Home to Work Rideshare Survey you received with your paychecks last week. We want to get 100 percent response. It's part of the AQMD regulation XV requirements. They must be turned in by April 10. If you have questions, call Lou Cherene at ext. 2-4863.

- Franklin White

I welcome your comments and questions in response to CEO Report, which is designed to provide employees with direct communication with my office. Please contact either of my Special Assistants, Michael Gonzalez at 244-7476, or Phyllis Tucker at 244-6191. Also, employees can fax comments to 244-6014.

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