

Event to Remember: Speakers Praise Division 1's Place in History as Crowd Celebrates 100th Anniversary



Division Transportation Manager Jesse Castorena, left, is flanked by retired bus operator Lonnie Anders, MTA Director James Cragin, Transit Operations Executive Officer Tom Conner and Tom LaBonge of Mayor Riordan's Office.

By Bill Heard, Editor

(November 8) Old and young, employees and families, politicians and preachers, musicians and dancers – the big crowd on hand, Sunday, at Division 1 all had one thought: the 100th anniversary party was an event to remember.

Division Transportation Manager Jesse Castorena emphasized that when he began the day's festivities with, "I'd like to wish Division 1 a very happy birthday!"

MTA Director Jim Cragin, whose family has worked in transportation for generations, said, "For the past 100 years, Division 1 has served as the backbone of transit in Los Angeles.

"The modes of transit have changed over the years," Cragin added, "but the service provided by the men and women at Division 1, and at the MTA's other divisions, is as vital to Los Angeles now as it was 100 years ago."



CEO Julian Burke had the importance of Division 1 firmly in mind when he told the crowd that, "Historic sites come and go, but this one remains and will continue to remain, in my view, and can only get bigger and better."



Speaking from the heart, Burke said his time as MTA CEO, "...has, indeed, been the most important work...the most challenging work...I have ever done. It's been very important work for me, for you and for all of us."

CEO Julian Burke

Tom Conner, MTA Transit Operations executive officer, said the MTA should "prepare to begin a new millennium" by reflecting on "what it was like in 1899 as people prepared to enter the 20th century. He called Division 1 "a central part" of that history, adding that, "All of you should be proud to be an important part of the transportation history of Los Angeles."

[Back to MTA Report](#)