

Hispanic Media Quiz CEO Snoble Over Morning Coffee

(Feb. 14, 2002) The federal Consent Decree, safety and the MTA's new service sector concept were among topics of interest, Thursday, to a dozen Hispanic media representatives during a breakfast meeting with CEO Roger Snoble.

Over chilaquiles, pastries and coffee, the reporters quizzed Snoble about the current state of the agency and about the MTA's plans for the future.

The CEO said the MTA is on "two tracks regarding the Consent Decree" with one being the Board's recent decision to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

At the same time, the staff is preparing a plan he hopes will persuade the special master that the MTA can meet passenger load standards through proper scheduling and with the addition of the buses it currently has on order.

"Ninety-eight or ninety-nine percent of our bus trips" meet passenger load standards, Snoble said.

A range of tools

He said transportation in Los Angeles should not be a "bus versus rail argument," explaining that the MTA needed to use a "range of tools" – buses, Bus Rapid Transit and rail – to meet the area's transit needs.

The CEO outlined the MTA's new service sector concept for the reporters. Sector general manager, he said, would work with local advisory councils to shape service to meet local needs.

In addition, they would have responsibility for local bus scheduling and would oversee staffs that would include public affairs, human resources, schedule planning, finance and other functions.

In response to a question about safety, Snoble noted that all new buses come equipped with surveillance cameras that help police identify persons involved in criminal acts. He also explained that all buses have silent alarms operators can use to notify the Bus Control Center in the event of a problem.

As far as the nation's heightened state of alert, Snoble said, "We have not had a credible threat of terrorism since September 11." But, he pointed out that the MTA has an excellent record of response during natural disasters and local crises. He also said the agency has stepped up its security training in recent months.

A dozen members of the Los Angeles-area Hispanic media met for a round-table breakfast discussion, Thursday, with CEO Roger Snoble.



Below, CEO Snoble answers a question posed by Marilu Meza of La Opinion during a breakfast for local Hispanic media. Also shown is Maria Arredondo of La Opinion.



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