

San Gabriel Valley, San Fernando Valley Sectors Set to Roll July 1

PHOTOS: DENNIS FINN

By RICK JAGER

The MTA is ready to implement new community-based transit sectors in both the San Gabriel Valley and the San Fernando Valley beginning July 1.

The sectors are designed to improve bus service, reliability, customer satisfaction and enhanced travel opportunities for those patrons who rely on MTA services.

"The creation of these service sectors will dramatically improve the overall operation of the bus fleet and provide quality service to those who rely on MTA services," said Board Chairman John Fasana. "Equally important to the success of the service sectors will be the Board's decision to create individual governance councils that will provide the needed local control over the operation of the bus service."

"Hats off to both CEO Roger Snoble and Deputy CEO John Catoe for fulfilling their promise of implementing community-based transit sectors by July 1," he added.

Heading up the Metro San Gabriel Valley sector is Jack Gabig, who for the past 12 years has served as general manager for Montebello Bus Line, supervising a staff of 200 employees and overseeing a 75-vehicle bus and paratransit service.

David Armijo will head up the Metro San Fernando Valley sector. Armijo for the past six years has served as Director of Operations for Orange County Transportation Authority, where he managed the agency's bus and paratransit services, Metrolink commuter rail services and the Orange County Taxi Administration Program.

A major departure

"The creation of these community-based transit sectors is a major departure from the way MTA has done business in the past," said CEO Roger Snoble. "These sectors, smaller in size, will allow us to operate bus service that is more community-focused and tailored to their needs."

Metro San Fernando Valley service encompasses two MTA operating divisions in Chatsworth and Sun Valley. The sector will be responsible for the operation of approximately 440 Metro buses and 23 Metro Bus lines carrying nearly 53 million boarding passengers each year. Armijo and his support staff are located in offices in Chatsworth.

The Metro San Gabriel Valley service has two MTA operating divisions in El Monte and Cypress Park. The sector will be responsible for the operation of 450 Metro buses and 30 Metro Bus lines carrying nearly 62 million boarding passengers each year. Gabig and his staff are located in offices adjacent to the MTA's operating division in El Monte.

A total of five service sectors will be created to serve the region. By the



Metro San Fernando Valley GM David Armijo



Metro San Gabriel valley GM Jack Gabig

end of the year, community-based transit sectors will also be established in the South Bay, Westside/Central area, and at Gateway Cities in southeast Los Angeles County.

Three other General Managers

The MTA has hired three additional service sector general managers. They are Richard J. Rogers, formerly vice president of Transportation Concepts where he managed all transit, shuttle and paratransit contracts; Dana Coffey, a 26-year MTA veteran, most recently serving as division transportation manager at South Bay Division 18; and Tracy Daly, a former assistant executive officer for Metrolink.

Rogers will assume the general manager position for the Gateway Cities sector, Coffey will take on the general manager duties for the South Bay sector and Daly assumes the general manager position for the Westside/Central service sector.

The appointments of all five general managers for their respective sectors are proposed. The MTA Board has approved the creation of individual governance councils to provide local control over the sectors. The Board still must define the roles and responsibilities of those councils and is expected to take action in late September.

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