

Honoring Metro Rail operators Tu Phan and Robert Rodriguez are, from left, Board Chairman Hal Bernson, CEO Roger Snoble, Rail General Manager Gerald Francis and Deputy CEO John Catoe.



### MTA Board Honors 2002 Rail Roadeo Winners

(Aug. 15, 2002) "Competing against rail operators from across the country and Canada, these two gentlemen showed the nation that we are the best."

With those words, Deputy CEO John Catoe introduced Metro Rail operators Tu Phan and Robert Rodriguez to the MTA Board, Thursday, as winners of the 2002 International Rail Roadeo last June in Baltimore.



Rail General Manager Gerald Francis congratulates Metro Rail operators Tu Phan and Robert Rodriguez.

The Board honored Phan and Rodriguez with commemorative resolutions, presented by Chairman Hal Bernson. The audience joined Board members in a round of applause.

Fifteen-year veteran Phan and Rodriguez, with 13 years' experience, were the first MTA operators ever to win the prestigious rail competition sponsored annually by the American Public Transit Association. They competed against rail operators from 17 other transit properties in the U.S. and Canada.

"We're proud to represent the MTA," Phan said following the Board meeting. "Because we're a new property, the MTA really had not been recognized as a major rail operation. This put us on the map, internationally, as a world-class rail system."

"They may not even realize it, but they're the best of the best," said Rail General Manager Gerald Francis. "They had only a day and a half to learn another property's rules and procedures and their operating system. They worked hard. They were so focused, they didn't even smile for two days."

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