

CEO Roger Snoble addresses all-staff meeting.



CEO Welcomes End of Strike During All-Staff Meeting

(Nov. 18, 2003) "We're back in operation, thank God!" CEO Roger Snoble told a hastily called all-staff meeting, Tuesday morning. "We're delighted that the strike is over – that we're back to work. It's a new day!"

As Snoble spoke, many union employees were back on the job and buses were completing their runs on city streets. The Metro Red and Blue Lines also were back in partial service – with more rail service planned as the week wears on.



"Our challenge is to get the service back up, serve our customers and make it as smooth as possible and find ways to improve our service," he said.

The CEO asked employees to welcome back returning union workers.

"They are an important part of our family and we need to treat them with respect and dignity as they come back," he said. "We need to work with them and go forward to serve our customers."

The tentative contract agreement with ATU, Snoble said is "one I think we can live with." He gave few details of the settlement, but noted that work still must be done to resolve the Health and Welfare Trust Fund issue.

UTU, TCU agreements

Final agreements have yet to be reached with the UTU, representing bus and train operators, and the TCU, representing clerks and custodians.

Snoble thanked MTA's negotiating team for their months of effort at the bargaining table. He also had praise for the Transit Operations staff.

Deputy CEO John Catoe voiced appreciation for the volunteers who cleaned buses and rail cars, and even Metro Rail stations, over several weekends during the 35-day strike.

Looking ahead, Snoble anticipated "modest growth" at MTA. Among upcoming events are the addition of 45-foot buses, 60-foot articulated buses and more rail cars. He also expects to implement the "hub and spoke" network of bus lines.

"Our future is bright," he said. "We're in one of the few regions of the country where there is economic growth."

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