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Gateway Cities' Rogers Leaving MTA; Clifford to Succeed Him

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Feb. 11, 2004) General Manager Rich Rogers, who has led the Gateway Cities Service Sector since its inception in October 2002, will leave MTA, Feb. 20, for an executive position with a national transportation company.

Alex Clifford, currently managing director of On-Street Support for Metro Operations, will succeed Rogers. The appointment is effective Feb. 21.

Rogers has been named senior vice president for East Coast Operations at MV Transportation, Inc., a Fairfield, Calif., company that provides paratransit and fixed-route public transportation services in 17 states. He came to MTA from a position as vice president of Transportation Concepts of Irvine, Calif.

"Rich Rogers has had an outstanding career in both the private and public sectors," says Deputy CEO John Catoe. "He's been a real asset to Metro by taking the lead in establishing the Gateway Service Sector. I am saddened by his loss to Metro, but happy that it's a gain for national transportation."

Prior to joining MTA in July 2001, Clifford, 44, was an executive with a consumer products company. As MTA's managing director of On-Street Support, he is responsible for Bus Operations Control, Central Maintenance and the New Technology and Systems Implementation (NTSI) group.

NTSI is implementing the Universal Fare System and the Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) – projects totaling more than \$200 million in capital funds.

Transportation commission member

Clifford also served for eight years as a member of the Riverside County Transportation Commission and was twice elected chairman. He represented the commission as a member of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority and served as its chairman for two years.



General Manager Rich Rogers is taking a new transportation job on the East Coast. Below, Alex Clifford, shown here with Deputy CEO John Catoe, will be the new Gateway Cities Sector general manager, effective Feb. 21.



For eight years, he also served as a board member of the Riverside Transit Agency. In addition, he was a member of the Intercity Rail Joint Powers Authority and the California/Nevada Super Speed Train Commission, among others.

"Alex Clifford has a unique combination of skills and background from the transit policy side, operations management and finance," says Catoe. "He's a very talented manager and leader, and I expect many positive things in his new role as Gateway Cities general manager."

Given the high profile of MTA's sector general managers in the transportation industry, Catoe says he was prepared for some turnover in their ranks.

"Two years ago when we hired Rich Rogers and the other general managers, I was fully aware that we might lose one or two of them," says Catoe. "They're very talented and skilled managers and we anticipated that other transit agencies would be interested in them."

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