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VIEW FROM THE 25th FLOOR

The Storm, a Shortage and Dollars from D.C.

By ROGER SNOBLE

"When it rains, it pours," they say, and that was certainly true over the President's Day weekend when one storm after another walloped the Metro Rail system.



CEO Roger Snoble

Rain, lightning, flooding, mudslides – nature was playing tag with us and kept the controllers at the Rail Control Center and our Wayside Systems crews hopping to maintain as much service as possible on the Metro Green, Blue, Gold and Red Lines.

It was a difficult, wet and sometimes dangerous task that also required excellent coordination and teamwork at the ROC and in the field. Operators at divisions 18, 5 and 11 pitched in to run a bus bridge and

Rail Facilities employees helped with cleanup from the storm.

It's incredible the kind of effort Metro employees are willing to put into such efforts to serve our customers and to ensure their mobility even under the worse weather conditions.

Hats off!

Hats off to all our Metro Rail folks! They did a great job. We're really fortunate to have such dedicated people.

And speaking of people, we don't have enough of them – at least not in our bus operator ranks. At a time when we're continuing to expand bus service, we haven't been able to attract enough people who want to be bus operators and who can pass our rigorous training program.

Being a Metro Bus operator can be an excellent career for many. If you know of someone who's service-minded and customer-oriented and who's looking for a great job opportunity, please encourage them to apply through our Human Resources Department. Job listings for bus operators also are posted on our metro.net web site.

I want to close this month's column with a quick report on my recent trip to Washington, D.C.

Encouraging reception in D.C.

The reception we received from our Los Angeles-area congressional delegation was quite encouraging. They're all very supportive of our federal funding request, this year, for \$80 million for construction of the Metro Gold Line's Eastside Extension, of the \$10 million we need for bus purchases and of the \$5 million we want for ITS projects.

Joined by Supervisor Mike Antonovich, I also paid a visit to Federal Transit Administrator Jenna Dorn. We discussed funding for the Exposition Light Rail Line and for the Metro Foothill Gold Line. As a result of our talks, I think we now have a better understanding of what the possibilities are for securing more federal funding.

As I said in my January column, 2005 is going to be a tough year, but there are some bright spots ahead. Let's just keep pluggin' away and enjoy 'em when they come.

February 24, 2005

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