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VIEW FROM THE 25th FLOOR

Metro Family Day, A Veteran Metro Rail Team and A Rose

By CEO ROGER SNOBLE



CEO Roger Snoble

I missed a great party earlier this month, stranded at home due to neck surgery. But, I'm told that Metro Family Day at Universal City was a success on all levels, with almost 1,500 participating, fun for the kids, good food and an opportunity to see old friends.

Family Day could be the start of a new annual tradition here at Metro, based on the enthusiasm for the first one. My thanks to Danielle Boutier, Jennifer Salamanca, Alicia Rodriguez, Fran Curbello, interns Crystal Martel and Sasa Bahadori for their hard work to create a very special employee event.

2005 Metro Raildeo

I also want to congratulate all those who participated in the 2005 Metro Raildeo! We'll have a great team representing us in June at the APTA International Rail Rodeo in Pittsburgh.

We can be proud of the team we'll send to Pittsburgh: Metro Rail operators Tu Phan and Ruben Ramirez, along with equipment maintenance specialists Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo. Raildeo runners-up were Operator Ramon Alvarez and Maintenance Specialist Jose Rodriguez.

Tu Phan has gone to the International finals five times, winning in 2002. Burt, Czintos, and Glenn Abraham, won the International maintenance contest in 2003.

Rail Operations plans a Summer Celebration at the Metro Red Line yard, June 25, to celebrate our International team and honor all who competed in the local Raildeo.

Rose Award and Vendor Fair

I was pleased to learn that the Downtown Breakfast Club recognized the value of Metro Bus and Rail service by honoring the agency, earlier this month. The club gave us one of its famous Rose Awards for making downtown more livable and a better place to work.

Metro also plays an important role in supporting small business. We're co-sponsoring the Greater Los Angeles Vendor Fair, today, at the LA Convention Center. Many thanks to the employees who have volunteered to help out. These include employees from Procurement and Material Management, Diversity and Economic Opportunity, Commute Services, Ethics, Pre-Qualification, Metro Construction and Real Estate.

Orange Line hours

On another note, I want to clear up some confusion over the 60,000 service hours we're planning to allocate to the Metro Orange Line when it opens next fall. We're not cutting Metro Bus service, although we are asking the Service Sectors to trim unproductive bus trips by that amount.

It's important to note that, since last June, we've added some 333,000 service hours and we're adding 76,600 more hours beginning July 1. We want to maintain overall bus service levels even in our current financial situation. These actions are fully compatible with the Special Master's Consent Decree order.

Special Master's order

As you may have read on the Intranet, we're under orders from the Special Master to add 134 more buses to the Metro Rapid fleet. The order also directed the Board to take a new look at our funding, including rail funding, to expand and operate Metro Rapid service.

In recent years, we've added hundreds of new buses and more than 1.6 million hours of bus service. But, bus ridership remains flat. Now, with our budget already stretched thin, we'll be hard-pressed to respond to the Special Master's new order.

This month and in the days to come, we'll be talking with the Board about our next steps. It won't be easy, but we'll work hard to find the best solution that will allow us to meet the demands of the Consent Decree, while continuing to be good stewards of the taxpayers' dollar.

April 27, 2005

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