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## Governance Council Members Attend Annual Meeting

- Councils are praised for role in restructuring county's transit; hear reports on Metro's challenges.

(May 25, 2005) Governance Council members from Metro's five service sectors heard a series of reports on the budget and service issues, Monday, and were praised for their leadership role in helping "restructure transit in LA County."

The council members gathered at the Gateway Building for their annual joint meeting. They were joined by CEO Roger Snoble, Deputy CEO John Catoe, the sector general managers and other agency executives.

In addition to a budget update presented by Chief Financial Officer Richard Brumbaugh, the agenda included reports on the Metro Connections project, operations goals for FY 2006, communications and marketing, and governance council successes.

"When I read about a meeting in a service sector where 100 people show up to express support or concerns, or challenge some of the recommendations we've made," Catoe told the group, "I think that's good, because it's getting community involvement and input."

## Outlined challenges

Snoble outlined the challenges Metro has faced in responding to Consent Decree service demands, noting that the money invested in additional service has resulted in virtually no new riders.

He said adding Consent Decree service also has prevented Metro from funding other transportation improvements, including upgraded bus facilities or such highway improvements as soundwalls and signal synchronization.

"We're spending less each year on capital resources," he said.

Catoe thanked council members for their leadership in restructuring transit. "When a question about a change comes up, you – as governance council members – can talk about your personal experiences of riding those services. You bring a great deal of depth and knowledge to the process."