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VIEW FROM THE 25th FLOOR

Exciting Year Ahead with Mayor Villaraigosa as Board Chairman

By CEO ROGER SNOBLE



CEO Roger Snoble

The Fourth of July fireworks that will help get Metro's Fiscal Year 2006 off to a rousing start will symbolize the exciting and challenging year ahead of us.

We'll welcome Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in July as our new Board chairman. We'll open the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley in late fall – an event that also will see the first use of the Metro Liner articulated buses. In addition, we'll open more Metro Rapid lines on crowded transit corridors.

You probably saw pictures of the new 2550 light-rail vehicle arriving earlier this month at LAX. The car is now undergoing testing for operation on the Metro Gold Line later this year.

We also can't forget the challenges posed by our budget deficit and our continuing struggle to obtain \$300 million in Proposition 42 transportation funding from Sacramento, and \$80 million from Washington for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension.

A lot to hand over

All this is a lot to hand over to Mayor Villaraigosa. But, he has a deep knowledge of our agency, having served as recently as nine months ago as a member of our Board and, earlier, on the SCRTD Board.

During the mayoral campaign, he talked about the importance of the Exposition light-rail project and mentioned extending the Metro Red Line beyond Wilshire/Western – something other Board members have discussed.

The mayor-elect has always been a big proponent of excellent bus service that's clean, free of graffiti and serves the public well. I expect he'll bring energy and focus to our continued efforts to provide quality bus service.

Key appointments

Mayor Villaraigosa will make three appointments to the Board. The four City of Los Angeles seats have always been an important factor in the 13-member Board's decision-making. Another key appointment will be a staff representative who will work with us to set the monthly Board agendas.

We can expect a fast-paced year, one that will keep us on our toes in

meeting the challenges ahead. It bodes well that we'll have someone of Mayor Villaraigosa's energy and caliber to lead the Board.

I want to close by thanking Mayor Frank Roberts for his leadership, hard work and support as our Board chairman this past year. He's driven long distances to our meetings and has done a great job representing an important section of the county. I wish him well and look forward to working with him on the Board.

June 29, 2005

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