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## CEO UpDate

### 2005: It Was a Year of Beginnings

By CEO ROGER SNOBLE



CEO Roger Snoble

2005. It was an exciting year. A year we can build on. A year of beginnings.

Metro Rail got a tremendous boost this year. Bus Operations scored big with the opening of the Metro Orange Line. Even our fortunes under the federal Consent Decree took a favorable turn.

The airborne delivery in June of our first 2550 AnsaldoBreda rail car signaled the beginning of a new era in rail service. Two 2550s are now being tested on the Metro Gold Line tracks and two others are in functional testing at the plant in Italy. These cars are the future of our light rail lines.

Board approval, earlier this month, of the Exposition Line's environmental report was a significant step toward the start of that rail project. And, with assembly of the boring machines almost complete, tunneling will begin soon on the Eastside Extension.

### Harbinger of progress

Another harbinger of progress occurred when a panel of experts studying the feasibility of tunneling in West LA released an encouraging report. Shortly afterward, Congressman Henry Waxman filed legislation to end the prohibition against tunneling in that area.

Although Metro has no funding for another subway project just now, growing local support for a subway extension raises hopes for such a project in the foreseeable future.

The Metro Orange Line opened on a sunny October weekend and the public turned out in droves – 86,000 strong – to ride it. It was a spectacular beginning for a unique service and holds great promise for the future of bus rapid transit.

Unfortunately, some motorists are having difficulty adjusting to the Orange Line intersections – and too many accidents have resulted – but we're taking measures to mitigate that problem, including installation of new signage and photo-enforcement cameras.

### Introduced new artics

We saw the first elements of our Metro Connections program with the introduction of the 450X Express on the Harbor Transitway and the 577X Express connecting El Monte and Long Beach. We also introduced our new articulated buses to city streets on Western and Vermont

avenues.

And finally, we're seeing the beginning of the end of the Consent Decree. Earlier this month, the special master approved our New Service Plan and wrote positively about the service improvements we've made.

The Consent Decree lapses next October, but we will continue to provide quality service to our customers with innovations in planning, scheduling and operations.

I want to close by thanking you for all you've done to make this a year of beginnings for Metro and for our customers. In 2006, let's continue to build on these foundations.

Happy Holidays to you and your family...and have a Happy New Year!

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December 22, 2005

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