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## CEO UpDate

### Labor Talks, the Expo Line and a Poem for Arthur Winston

By CEO ROGER SNOBLE



CEO Roger Snoble

Following a successful series of workshops that helped develop a better level of trust between Metro management and labor union leaders, this year's contract negotiations seem to be off to a good start.

Unlike previous years, the 2006 bargaining talks are being conducted as "interest-based negotiations," in which the parties focus on issues of mutual interest. They will strive to avoid taking hard-and-fast positions and, instead, concentrate on reaching consensus on matters of interest to both sides.

This promises to be an improvement over previous years, when the negotiations process failed and we had work stoppages that harmed both our employees and our customers.

But, this year, I believe there's a new commitment by both sides to resolve differences in a better way than in the past. I personally am committed to the "interest-based negotiations" process and I look forward to reaching a fair settlement with our unions – UTU, ATU and TCU – before the fiscal year ends in June.

### Go-ahead for the Expo Line

Another important initiative that has been given the go-ahead in the past couple of weeks is the Exposition Line. The Federal Transit Administration has signaled environmental clearance for the light rail project, and the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority has given its CEO authority to approve the design/build contract.

The Authority's CEO is Rick Thorpe. And, while he heads that organization, he will continue in a dual role to guide Metro's construction program as our Chief Capital Management Officer. In fact, many of our employees will be working part-time or full-time on the Expo Line project.

Metro and the Construction Authority are total partners in building the Expo Line. The Authority relies upon Metro to provide the funding, a great deal of the professional work and, of course, Metro will operate the line once it's completed in 2010.

The partnership of these two agencies is very important. The faster we

build the Expo Line, the less it's going to cost and the sooner it will provide another vital rail service to our customers.

**A tribute to Arthur Winston**

I want to close this column with a tribute to an exceptional individual and one whom I have been privileged to know. Arthur Winston has been an inspiration to me and I wanted to find a way to convey how I really feel. So, as I often do on special occasions, I wrote this poem for Arthur.

For Arthur Winston

You'll be leaving the job behind  
Say a final goodbye to the grind  
You worked hard each day  
With an elegant sway  
Now is your chance to unwind.

You have certainly met the test  
Have outworked all the rest  
You are all the rage  
One hundred years of age  
Arthur Winston, you're simply the best.

You may have noticed our dismay  
We all wish you would stay  
You have been a good friend  
We don't want that to end  
But we will miss you in the worst way.

In light of all the celebration  
I need to convey my admiration  
You have accomplished a feat  
That no other will ever beat  
Thanks so much for your inspiration.

March 14, 2006