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CEO UpDate

Pride in Our 'Outstanding' APTA Award; A Word About the Budget

By CEO ROGER SNOBLE



CEO Roger Snoble

I hope everyone is as excited as I am about winning the APTA Outstanding Public Transportation System award for 2006. This is a very prestigious award and a high honor for any transit property. It confirms Metro's standing as a national transportation leader.

As I mentioned during the recent all-staff meeting, we will receive the award on October 10 at the APTA convention in San Jose. Between now and then, we'll be putting together a marketing and public outreach program to let our customers – and all of Los Angeles – know that their transportation system has been named America's best.

We want every resident of LA to be as proud of this achievement as we here at Metro are. We owe a lot to our patrons who ride our system; to the taxpayers who have voted dollars for transit; to our local and state leaders who have fought for funding; and to our Board members for the great support they give us.

I want to thank you for making it possible for Metro to win the APTA award. Whether you drive a bus or train, clean or maintain our vehicles; whether you're involved in planning, construction, operations, procurement, communications, customer relations or staff support – it was your individual contribution that helped bring us this great honor.

Further budget reductions

A word or two about the budget. As you know, the Board approved our \$3 billion FY 2007 budget in May, but asked us to come back this month with ideas for ways to reduce our spending by another \$10 million.

Among the measures we'll take is to eliminate 17 vacant non-contract positions. Beyond this, I don't plan to recommend and I don't foresee staff layoffs. In fact, in future years as we receive the state bond funding being worked on in Sacramento, I believe we'll have to expand our staff to handle new transportation projects.

Another topic I know you're interested in is salary increases. The FY 2007 budget includes a 2 percent across-the-board pay increase. Labor negotiations are still ongoing, but our chief labor negotiator, Deputy CEO John Catoe, is optimistic about signing labor agreements

this month.

In closing, let me again express my appreciation and admiration for all everyone at Metro has done to help us win the APTA award. It's a well-deserved honor.

June 15, 2006

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