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Reacting to applause from APTA members after receiving the 2006 Achievement Award are Board Chair Gloria Molina, second from left, Board Member Pam O'Connor, CEO Roger Snoble and Deputy CEO John Catoe. At left, Stephanie Negriff, who chaired the awards committee, presented the award.  
(Photo by Bill Heard)

## Transit Pros Honor Metro with 'Outstanding System Achievement Award'

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 11, 2006) Amid a standing ovation from some 2,000 transit professionals, Metro officials claimed the industry's most prestigious award, Tuesday, during the APTA Annual Meeting in San Jose.

The 2006 Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award for properties with more than 30 million passengers was presented to Board Chair Gloria Molina, Board Member Pam O'Connor, CEO Roger Snoble and Deputy CEO John Catoe.

"It's been very impressive, the work we've been doing over the years. We really deserve this award," Molina told myMetro.net. "We're an all-purpose agency that's constructing rail, running buses, planning. People came together... and here we are: award winners."

The gala awards event was presented with a show business flair that preceded each award with a short video highlighting the agency's achievements. Winners were spotlighted as they proceeded to the stage to receive their awards.

"It's a great honor to be recognized by your peers as doing a really outstanding job and being an outstanding agency," said Snoble. "It takes 10,000 employees and many different partners to pull everything together. There's a

lot of hard work that goes into it and understanding what the goal is."

### **A first-time award**

Winning this year's Achievement Award was a first-time event for Metro, which was formed during a merger in 1993. Both predecessor agencies won APTA awards for innovation.

"If you ask our customers, I think they would tell you that Metro services have improved significantly, not only from the standpoint of appearance, but also from the standpoint of quality," said Catoe. "That's resulted in better ridership and creativity, and many other factors that got us here."

Also receiving the Achievement Award were the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority of Syracuse, N.Y., for agencies with fewer than 30 million passenger trips; the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority of Canton, Ohio, for fewer than 4 million trips; and the Beaver County Transit Authority of Rochester, Pa., for fewer than 1 million trips.

Stephanie Negriff, director of Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus, chaired the awards committee. She believes the APTA award reflects well on all transit agencies in the Southern California region.

"When we see a win for one system, we see a win for the entire region, and I see that as very positive," she said. "This is an opportunity to recognize what we are doing to enhance mobility in our region."

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