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Framed by the familiar skyline of the Elysian Park hills, the SCRTD Division 3 bus yard in 1960 Cypress Park grew into the current facility pictured here in 2003.

CEO Leahy begins agency-wide tour of divisions on familiar ground

- North Los Angeles Division 3 is where CEO Leahy joined Metro as a bus operator 38 years ago and where his parents worked as trolley car operators.

Contributed by Dave Hershenson

Community Relations Manager, Metro San Gabriel Valley

(May 12, 2009) When CEO Art Leahy visited North Los Angeles Division 3 recently, the first stop on an agency-wide tour, he was on familiar ground. Division 3 was the site of the beginning of a lifelong transit career for Metro's new CEO, who clocked in as a newly hired bus operator 38 years ago.

In fact, Division 3 goes way back in the Leahy family tree. The Cypress Park bus yard was the site where his parents worked as trolley car operators.

The rest, as they say, is transit history.



On familiar ground, CEO Leahy tours North Los Angeles Division 3 with Chief of Operations Carolyn Flowers and Metro San Gabriel Valley GM Jack Gabig.

Photo: Dave Hershenson

Metro San Gabriel Valley General Manager Jack Gabig, joined by key sector and division staff management, led the tour on April 30. Others participating included Chief Operations Officer Carolyn Flowers, Special Assistant to the CEO Ron Schwartz, general managers Alex Clifford, Dana Coffey, Richard Hunt and Mark Maloney, and UTU Local Chairperson Lisa Arrendondo.

The tour began in the transportation building with Transportation Manager Dan Frawley escorting CEO Leahy through various areas of the building, eventually ending up in the operator's break room where an impromptu contingent of Division 3 staff were gathering.

Addressing the importance of delivering quality service to our customers and the need to improve on-time performance reliability, CEO Leahy asked those in attendance what the agency's biggest challenges were and what ideas they might have for improvements.



When CEO Leahy met Bus Operator Michael McQuarrie during his tour of North Los Angeles Division 3, he learned that McQuarrie had been on the job for just nine days. Said CEO Leahy: "It's great to finally meet someone at Metro with less seniority than I have!" *Photo: Dave Hershenson*

After the group discussion, the tour moved to the maintenance yard, where Maintenance Manager Cliff Thorne took over the tour. There CEO Leahy met some of the division's mechanics, supervisors and service attendants. They discussed a number of topics related to maintenance, including the importance of putting clean buses on the street. CEO Leahy also got the opportunity to see the new Division 3 maintenance annex, which is nearing completion.

His parting words were no less prophetic than a famous quote gleaned from the first career of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger: "I'll be back."