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[Board Actions]

Board moves to support development of high speed rail; approves toll rates for freeway express lanes

- [Milestones:](#) Two Bus Operators mark 50 years on the job

(July 23, 2009) In his first board meeting as chairman, City of Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian played host to lengthy public comment sessions and detailed discussions surrounding the motion to adopt the Long Range Transportation Plan and the item authorizing the CEO to secure Los Angeles County's fair share of federal rail funding through the New Starts Program. Both items were moved forward to the September agenda. In the matter of considering light rail vehicle options, the board voted to extend the current bid period for 60 days. The consent calendar, which passed unanimously, included support for California high-speed rail and determining toll rates for freeway express lanes.

Report: [Metro moves to support development of California High Speed Rail](#)

Report: [Metro Board approves toll rates for freeway express lanes](#) as part of Congestion Reduction Demonstration Project

Milestones:

Board recognizes South Bay operators, each with 50 years of service.



So noted: Board recognizes veteran operators for 50 years of service. From left, Board Chairman Ara Najarian, Operator Jack Bailey, Operator Donald Dube and CEO Art Leahy.

(July 23, 2009) CEO Art Leahy, himself a transportation veteran with 38 years of service, invited Metro Bus Operators Donald Dube and Jack Bailey up to the podium at the Metro Board meeting held July 23 to recognize each for 50 years of service.

Dube, hired Nov. 1, 1958, intended to stay at the wheel for 6 months or until he could afford to return to college to become an aeronautical engineer. But college didn't pay well in those days and the job as a bus operator turned into a career that extended well into his golden years. "It's been a pleasure for me to work here and I'd like to stay on quite a few more years," said Dube.

In the same year the Los Angeles Dodgers won their first pennant in their new home town, Jack Bailey came on board the Los Angeles MTA on July 6, 1959. He went to work the very next day at the West Hollywood Division and never looked back. A line instructor for 49 years and a mentor to new employees and trainees, he's never had a miss-out (a bus yard term for late) in the entire 50 years. "He enjoys driving, enjoys his passengers, enjoys his co-workers," said Leahy, who attended Bailey's 50-year bash at the Carson Division on July 9. "It's been wonderful to have 50 years of steady employment," said Bailey.

United Transportation Union spokesman Goldy Norton heaped praise on the two longtime operators, congratulating both on behalf of General Chairman James Williams and the entire UTU membership for their "outstanding service to this agency and the outstanding manner in which they have represented our union. Driving a bus in the Los Angeles area is not easy and that they have accomplished this in over a half a century is an amazing accomplishment of which we are very proud," he said.

Both operators are assigned to Carson Division 18.

-- from Gayle Anderson