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Board Chair Ara Najarian and CEO Art Leahy present resolution commending outgoing Rail Chief Mike Cannell at April 22 board meeting.

## Employees, Directors Say Thanks to Exiting Rail Boss Mike Cannell

By Laura Kloth  
*Staff Writer*

(April 23, 2010) At its Thursday meeting, the Metro Board presented Mike Cannell with an official proclamation in recognition of his work and the positive impact he had on the agency during the three years he served as its Rail Manager.

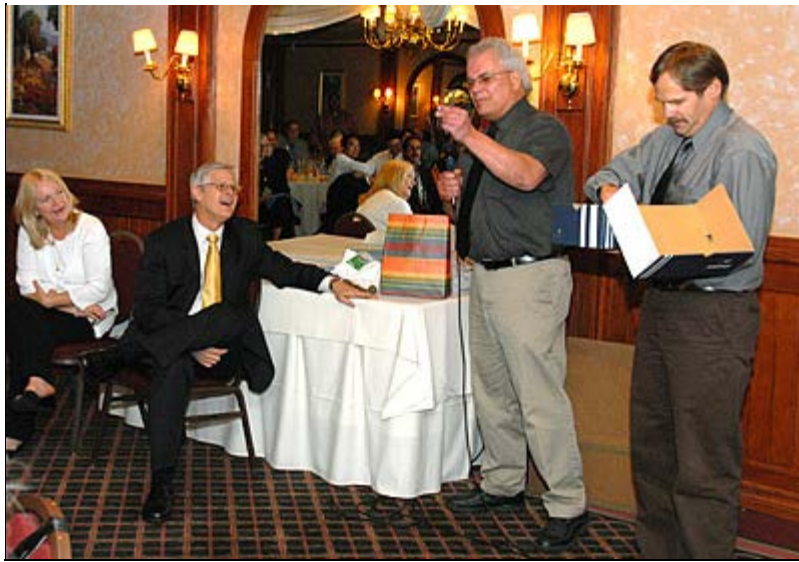
Cannell is retiring from Metro at the end of this month to return to his native Florida.

With best wishes, Cannell was teased and thanked by some 100 employees who attended a farewell luncheon held in his honor at the Luminarias Restaurant in Monterey Park.

Employees spent a few moments exchanging humorous stories about their first and ongoing encounters with Cannell, who they described as "a passionate rail boss" who made significant improvements to rail during an extremely busy and "chaotic period" in the transit agency's history.

Some of the gifts presented to the departing Cannell included rusty rail spikes and clips, a set of road maps with GPS for his car, a Thomas the Tank Engine book and a matching set of Mickey Mouse ears for he and his wife Carol to wear as they make their way east.

Rail GM Mike  
Cannell and wife



Carol enjoy antics of presentation by Wayside Systems Manager Jeffrey Root and Assistant Manager Paul Squires, who presented Cannell with a couple of old rail spikes and clips complete with a business card to a place where Cannell could get the items chromed.

Below are some of the comments Cannell will be taking back with him:

- "We all appreciated his stamina and heart and his drive because it wasn't easy but he persevered. He got through it, and with lots of people on board to help us get through those times, and I think we're a lot better agency for it." -- *Duane Martin, DEO Project Management*
- "Knowing Mike and his passion for rail we will see him around again." -- *Aida Asuncion, DEO Rail Operations*
- "It's been a pleasure working with you. There've been times when we had to put together things very quickly at the last minute... a lot of changes in the last three years. Good bye my friend." --*Bruce Shelburne, Dir. Of Scheduling and Service Dev.*
- "He's made us better people, better leaders and a better team altogether." --*Hector Guerrero, Rail Div. Transportation Manager*
- "If you have passion and you treat people right, you're going to have them there (behind you) forever and Mike I've got your back." --*Roman Alarcon, Interim Executive Director, Transportation*
- "You can't fake caring. The troops figure out if you're a faker. And you're not a faker. I've had a great time working with you. Sorry to see you go." --*Lonnie Mitchell, Interim Chief Operations Officer*
- "We're not human beings trying to be spiritual. We are spiritual beings trying to be human, and Mr. Cannell is definitely spiritual." -- *Ruben Running Wolf Hernandez, Gold Line Rail Operator*
- "I enjoyed working for you. I think our greatest feat was opening up that Eastside Line. We were together as a team when we did that. I mean that was an outstanding job." -- *Randolph Gordy, Dir. Rail Facil. & Custodial Svcs.*
- "Mike your dedication and your drive and, above all, your sense of doing the right thing has been a personal inspiration for every last one of us." -- *Michael Harris Gifford, DEO Wayside Sys. Engineering & Main.*