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CEO Names Lonnie Mitchell to Top Operations Post

- New Chief Operations Officer will integrate bus and rail operations

(May 25, 2010) CEO Art Leahy announced Thursday the appointment of Chief Operations Officer Lonnie Mitchell to the position he has held on an interim basis since December 2009.

"Lonnie performed exceptionally well during that time period," Leahy wrote in a memo to Metro staff. "I look forward to him working quickly to solidify operations, improve performance and help make Metro the world class operation I know it can be."

As COO, Mitchell oversees bus and rail operations with an annual operating budget of \$1.48 billion and nearly 7,500 employees.

"My goal is to execute the CEO's vision to improve transit services and make this agency the best transit organization in the country," said Mitchell. "It's an opportunity to continue to make this transit service one that the public likes to ride."

Despite the constraints of the budget, Mitchell remains optimistic in the quest to improve transit service in the region. "We have outstanding transportation professionals on the job. The challenge is to listen and learn and make the changes necessary to support accomplishing the vision," he said.

Mitchell joined Metro as Procurement Chief in June 2000 after completing a 30-year career in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps. Appointed Chief Administrative Services Officer in December 2005, Mitchell's responsibilities expanded to include Procurement and Material Management, Administration, and Information Technology Services.

Mitchell concluded his 30-year naval career as vice commander of the Navy Exchange Service Command in Virginia Beach, Va, where he was responsible for oversight of information systems, financial operations, contracting, human resources, training and planning for 113 retail complexes worldwide.

Mitchell is a 1969 graduate of Washington State University, where he earned a BA in economics. He earned a Masters in acquisition



Chief Operations Officer Lonnie Mitchell
Photo by Noel Pamplona

management at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

Mitchell resides in Hancock Park. He has two adult daughters, Lacy, 32, and Allison, 28, and three granddaughters.

--from Gayle Anderson

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