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Challenges and Accomplishments, Both Behind and Ahead

(December 16, 2010) Metro can look back on 2010 as a year filled with both daunting challenges and significant accomplishments and can look forward to a 2011 filled with more of the same.

“And we’re up to it,” said Metro CEO Art Leahy at his December 15 “All Hands” meeting.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season, Leahy voiced his appreciation for the hard work of every member of the agency’s staff. As a whole and individually, he said, we’re all “performing at a very high level and we can be very proud of what we’ve accomplished in the year now closing.”

In the coming year, he said, the agency will confront the ongoing challenges of project funding and some selective bus service reductions in June.

Addressing several specific challenges facing the agency, Leahy zeroed in on deferred maintenance on rolling stock and graffiti abatement and overall cleanliness at both aboard the agency’s buses and trains and at stations.

Deferred maintenance, he said, “needs to stop as it’s not a smart way to do business,” while Metro will be taking a more active role in eliminating costly graffiti on both its equipment and along the region’s freeway network.

“Metro will be playing an expanded role in both areas and we’ll be looking at landscaping and graffiti abatement that’s effective in improving the look of the region’s transportation infrastructure. We’re also going to be looking at improving the overall cleanliness of our stations, buses and trains,” said Leahy.

“We are changing Los Angeles, he said, “and it’s the most exciting time ever to be involved in helping meet the region’s future transportation needs.”