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EDITOR'S NOTE: We welcome a new addition to myMETRO.NET, today, with the introduction of a monthly column by CEO Roger Snoble. The CEO's column also will be published in the MetroPeople newsletter that is distributed weekly to employees in the operating divisions.

New Year's Day Operation Gets Year Off to a Good Start

By ROGER SNOBLE

Despite the bad weather we've had the past week or so, I believe the sunshine we're finally getting is a harbinger of great things to come in 2005.



Roger Snoble

Our Metro Operations people got the year off to a good start by providing outstanding rail and bus service to the thousands of Rose Parade and Rose Bowl fans. On behalf of the Board and the staff, I want to sincerely thank them for that great effort.

Over the course of the year, I hope to use this space to talk about issues of concern to all of us as we focus on providing transportation alternatives to the people of Los Angeles County.

Think about this: Metro's staff includes bus operators, maintenance employees, transportation planners, construction engineers, and others with specialties of many kinds.

Improving quality of life

But, whatever role they may fill here at Metro, all of this talent is directed toward improving the quality of life for our citizens. That's why the taxpayers support us and why we want to give them something worthwhile in return – not only for today, but for the future.

Speaking of the future, coming up as the “crown jewel” of this year will be the opening later this year of the Metro Orange Line. Custom made for the San Fernando Valley, it will be an exclusive transitway quite unlike anything else in the nation.

We'll also see progress on construction of the Metro Gold Line's Eastside Extension. And we're planning more projects – such as carpool lanes and traffic signalization – to help relieve congestion on our streets and highways.

Later this month, we'll present a budget amendment to the Board of Directors aimed at getting us through FY 2005. It will be a combination of many different elements, all aimed at overcoming a \$40 million deficit.

Good job of managing

We've done a very good job of managing those things that are within our control throughout this fiscal year – and the budget process has been very successful in that regard. But, our successes have been

overshadowed by spiraling fuel costs and higher insurance and Workers' Compensation costs, among other factors.

This, unfortunately, is not a one-year problem. These difficulties will continue into FY 2006 as Metro operates more mandated bus service. And, because we won't be compensated for that service, either with more passenger revenue or additional tax support, it will be a drain on our resources.

Yes, we have challenges in the year ahead. And we can expect continued bright spots. Let's keep our focus and do our jobs. And remember what we are here for. Happy New Year!

January 12, 2005

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