

Some of those who gathered for the dedication ceremony were, from left, OCTA CEO Art Leahy, MTA Director John Fasana, Beth Dyer, MTA Director Antonio Villaraigosa and former SCRTD Chairman Nick Patsouras.



PHOTOS BY BILL HEARD

## Leaders Dedicate Plaque to John Dyer, 'Father of Subway'

By BILL HEARD, Editor



Beth Dyer, widow of former SCRTD General Manager John A. Dyer, with the plaque that will be mounted in the Wilshire/Vermont Metro Red Line station.

See metro.net report: [Memorial Service Set, May 28, for SCRTD's John Dyer](#)

(Dec. 22, 2003) Current and former leaders of MTA and its predecessor agency, SCRTD, gathered in the Board Room, Monday, to dedicate a plaque honoring John A. Dyer as "father of the Los Angeles County subway system."

Dyer, who died of a heart attack, May 3, in Glendale, was general manager of SCRTD from 1981 to 1988. He is credited with securing funding for the Metro Red Line and seeing it through the initial design and start of construction in 1986.

His widow, Beth, represented the family and unveiled the plaque that will be placed in the Wilshire/Vermont Metro Red Line station. In May, the MTA Board voted to name the station in Dyer's memory.

"John Dyer was a nationally recognized leader and considered a visionary in developing successful transit systems in major cities around the country....,"

the plaque reads in part. "He was the pioneer in developing the plan and funding for the Los Angeles Metro Rail system...."

### 'Transformed public transportation'

"He had a huge part in transforming public transportation," said MTA Director John Fasana, during opening remarks. "It's only appropriate

that we name a Metro Rail subway station in his honor.”

Los Angeles City Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa, who served as a member of the SCRTD Board, noted that Dyer had increased bus ridership by 33 percent and had obtained \$1.2 billion for the subway’s first construction phase and another \$1.3 billion for the second phase.

“When you’re a pioneer, you’re sometimes the only voice against the wind,” said Villaraigosa. “Those visionary continue to share the dream, to paint the picture, to put the mural on the canvas.”

CEO Art Leahy of the Orange County Transit Authority, who served Dyer as an SCRTD staff member, called him “a demanding boss, an inspiring leader. I learned a lot from him. I’m in his debt.”

Former SCRTD Board Member Mike Lewis said Dyer “...gave us mobility. He built an 18-mile spinal cord of a subway, capable of meeting our needs for many generations...We salute you with our highest honor and a lasting tribute to your contribution to our community and to our future.”

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