

REPORT FROM THE CEO

A weekly report
from the office
of the CEO

March 27, 1995



As you know, Art Leahy is directing some major changes in the Operations unit, which will see a 10 percent reduction of our management staff.

Under our new plan, which will be implemented on June 30, each division will be under a single manager, called a service operations manager. There will be 12 service operations managers and they will report to four regional general managers. Art just selected Tony Chavira, Ralph Wilson, Jon Hillmer and Ellen Levine to be the regional general managers. The appointments become effective April 1. Until then, the reporting structure remains the same as before.

Art's goal is to have the regional general managers be part of the final selection process for the service operations managers and to very closely manage the conversion to the single manager concept during this very busy period of budget development and organizational change.

I look forward to a re-energized team!

Kudos to Billie Underhill!

Congratulations to Bus Operator Billie Underhill of Anaheim, who was recently named MTA Bus Operator of the Month for January 1995. The 30-year veteran has had an exemplary safety record, earning a 29 year Safe Driving Award, and has received a letter of commendation from his division every year of his employment. He has been absent only twice because of illness in the last 15 years. I understand that when he's not driving the 262 line along Garfield Ave., he's busy restoring classic automobiles. He and his wife of more than 30 years, Olga, have one daughter, Antonella.

Family and Medical Leave Meetings

The final regulations implementing the federal Family and Medical Leave Act will become effective on April 6. Four information meetings to discuss the revised agency policy are scheduled. In the 425 Building, the meeting will be held on the second floor in the Board Room on Tuesday, April 4 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. There will be a second meeting at 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

In the 818 Building, two meetings will be held on Wednesday, April 5 in the Union Station Conference Room on the second floor. The times are 1 - 3 p.m. and 3 - 5 p.m.

Health Fairs

I hope you are taking advantage of the health fairs at the divisions. Luanna Urie of Human Resources is the agency's

Wellness Coordinator and, as always, she has planned a variety of programs that could be lifesavers.

I understand that at a Division 5 health fair several weeks ago, Luanna instituted glaucoma testing, and a whopping 11 percent of those tested registered near the dangerous level. Glaucoma is a symptomless disease that attacks one's peripheral vision. It causes irreversible damage and its incidence is quite high among African-Americans. The free screening test will be offered at other health fairs. Here's the tentative schedule:

Division 1:	April 11 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Division 2:	April 12 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Division 3:	April 13 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Division 7:	April 18 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Division 8:	April 19 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Division 9:	April 20 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Division 6:	April 21 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Division 10:	April 25 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Division 11:	April 26 — 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Division 12:	April 27 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Division 15:	May 2 — 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Division 18:	May 3 — 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
CMF:	May 4
Division 20:	May 9 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
818 Bldg.:	May 10 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
425 Bldg.:	May 11 — 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you have any questions, contact Luanna Urie at ext. 2-7164.

Construction Unit Develops Nationwide Program

The Construction Unit, in conjunction with the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), has developed a soon-to-be national certificate program for quality control inspectors. The joint program includes an exam to test the knowledge and experience of rail construction inspectors. Both the exam and certification should be available in 1996 to inspectors nationwide.

The 10 MTA inspectors who received the first joint MTA/NICET certification awards during a ceremony in mid-March were Alan Hodge, Robert Veatch, Mike Torres, Gary Rudy, Ralph Ratcliff, Ken Morrow, Gary Manker, Emanuel Douglas, Chuck Chang and Kerry Bodtke.

I was impressed with the folks I met at Division 20 the other day. They came up with a lot of positive ideas that I've directed my staff to look into.

The technical certification program will greatly benefit our projects by ensuring that they are built to prescribed standards. It, of course, is very gratifying that the program will be used throughout the country.

"Take Our Daughters to Work" Day

The MTA will take an active part in the annual Take Our Daughters to Work Day, which will be held on April 27. Sponsored by the Ms. Foundation for Women, the program encourages young girls ages 9-15 to see potential in themselves in the workplace of the future by spending one day at work with a parent, grandparent, sibling, neighbor, family friend or someone simply interested in giving them a chance.

Many of you brought your daughters to work last year, and we hope to increase the number in this year's program. My assistant, Phyllis Tucker, will be coordinating the MTA effort, along with Human Resources, so be on the lookout for flyers and other information about the upcoming day.

Vendor Fair

The third annual Vendor Fair will be held at the Convention Center on April 18. We're teaming with the city and county of L.A. for the fair, which provides an opportunity for the private sector to learn how to do business with our agencies.

The fair will feature new technology exhibitions including fuel cell technology vehicles and the ATTB bus.

Our Vendor Relations unit, under the direction of Carey Peck, is asking for staff volunteers for the one-day event. Please call Imani Brown at ext. 2-5131 if you're interested or Yolanda Williams at ext. 2-5128. You can help with registration, coordinating the luncheon, etc.

Division 20 Brown Bag

I was impressed with the folks I met at Division 20 the other day. They came up with a lot of positive ideas that I've directed my staff to look into.

Some of the participants expressed to me their frustration that top management doesn't seem to be listening to their concerns. It all has to do with communication — if you have a problem or question, take it to your supervisor. If he or she doesn't know the answer, then it should go up through the chain of command, until an answer is received. Please feel free to write your concern down, give it to your superior, and then send a copy to me.

Green Line News

The Green Line Marketing Team has been putting in long hours planning some upcoming Green Line events. As I mentioned last week, there will be several events in April, one of them is a car-naming, scheduled for Monday, April 10. Fran Curbello, who chairs the committee, has a number of other sparkling programs lined up, including a Green Tie charity event, slated for sometime in June. The opening ceremony will be at the Imperial/Wilmington Station.

"Me and My Shadow Career Day"

The TOPS group is asking for MTA employees to volunteer for the "Me and My Shadow Career Day" set for April 26. Jean Tillman, who is coordinating the event, is looking for employees in the 425, 818 and CMF buildings for employees willing to offer three hours of their time — from 8 to 11 a.m.

on the 26th — so that students can "shadow" them on the job. Let her know if you're interested. She's at ext. 4-7069.

Manager's Meeting

Remember, my monthly manager's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Los Angeles Room on the 10th floor of the 818 Building.

Long Range Plan

Finally, as you know, the Board adopted a 20-year transportation plan for the county last week. The cost of the programs outlined in the plan is estimated to be \$72.4 billion, which includes about \$67 billion in MTA-planned projects and services and \$5.4 billion in local return funds.

The Board also adopted the following additions to the plan:

- No MTA funds will be allocated to the Alameda Corridor Project until MTA is given representation on the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority Finance Committee.
- MTA will develop a rail cost containment plan that reports on design and construction savings, potential new revenues and prides a 20-year operational cost forecast. In addition, MTA staff was directed to prepare a five-year implementation plan for how MTA would apply the savings identified in the cost savings plan. MTA will develop an implementation strategy for the Mobility Allowance program, and coordinate its efforts with SCAG to ensure that the 20-year plan conforms with the Regional Mobility Element.
- MTA will work with the Los Angeles Department of Airports to provide for a rail connection between the Green Line and the LAX central terminal area.
- Caltrans will present its future soundwall programs to the MTA Planning and Programming Committee and include funding scenarios to accelerate the program in Los Angeles County.
- MTA funds programmed for the I-710 Gap Closure Project will not be released until environmental issues raised by the city of El Sereno and other cities are fully addressed.
- The Canoga right-of-way, which extends from the Chatsworth Metrolink station to Warner Center, will be included in the plan as a study corridor for diesel multiple rail-bus use.

- Franklin White

I welcome your comments and questions in response to **CEO Report**, which is designed to provide employees with direct communication with my office. Please contact either of my Special Assistants, Michael Gonzalez at 244-7476, or Phyllis Tucker at 244-6191. Also, employees can fax comments to 244-6014.

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