

CEO Report

Linda Bohlinger, Chief Executive Officer
April 14, 1997

After several months of uncertainty, the merger of our Transit Police Department with the LAPD and Los Angeles Sheriff's Department has gone into high gear. The Los Angeles City Council has directed its staff to work with the MTA in preparing a contract. A contract with the LASD also is being drafted for approval by the Board of Supervisors. Both contracts should be finalized later this month.

The LAPD and LASD will provide law enforcement services on Metro buses and trains, and for the region's municipal operators, under a three-party Memorandum of Agreement with the MTA. Transit Police personnel now must decide which of the two organizations they want to join. A job fair will be conducted April 15 through 17, and selections must be made by April 25. Officers will pin on their new badges July 1.

This will be a big change for the MTA, the LAPD and LASD, and it can't happen overnight. There will be a 90-day transition period that I expect will continue past the merger date. For a time after the merger, we'll continue to see many of the same officers patrolling our system. Fully integrating them into the ranks of their new agencies could take up to two years for new LAPD officers and perhaps a year for new Sheriff's deputies.

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the men and women of the Transit Police Department. They have given outstanding service over the years to our agency, our employees and our customers. We wish them well during the transition period and in their new jobs.

I want to express special appreciation to Chief Sharon Papa for her leadership these past months. The MTA owes an immense debt of gratitude to

All-Employee Survey

This week you'll receive your copy of the first-ever agency-wide employee survey. The confidential survey is intended to measure attitudes in a broad range of categories: employee morale, policies and procedures, merger issues, leadership, career satisfaction, diversity, communications and customer service.

The survey was developed by a task force of employees representing all major MTA divisions. ETI/AMPG, an outside consulting firm, designed the survey and will evaluate the data. This will ensure confidentiality and anonymity. It also assures that management will receive an objective analysis of the results.

What we learn from you in the survey will help make improvements in the quality of worklife at the MTA. The results will be shared with everyone, including executive officers who will use the information to develop their work plans for next year. I'll keep you informed through the CEO Report, Metro Family and employee meetings.

Bus Procurement Plan

Over the next five years, we're proposing to the Board an expansion of the MTA's Metro bus fleet by almost 20 percent — from 1,681 peak buses as of last November, to more than 2,000 by June, 2002. We'll take an important step along that road in May and June by adding 100 buses to the fleet.

We expect to have spent \$1 billion by the year 2009 to replace our older buses. Our highest priority is replacement of the methanol/ethanol fleet, which has experienced engine wear problems. We're also requesting \$50 million to bring the Clark Advanced Technology Transit Bus (ATTB) on line.

Our goal in proposing these plans to the Board is to reduce crowding on our most heavily traveled lines from a maximum of 19 standees to no more than nine. With the plans in place, the MTA will be able to fulfill our Consent Decree obligations and maintain our commitment to clean air, while continuing to modernize our bus fleet.

Flying Colors for Division 8

I visited Division 8 in Chatsworth on Thursday, April 3, to celebrate the results of their annual California Highway Patrol inspection. CHP rigorously inspected 20 buses and all 20 passed with flying colors — a rare event for buses that get such heavy use. Congratulations to the mechanics, bus operators and management of Division 8!

Serving Our Communities

On May 5, the MTA will kick off a seven-week campaign to raise a total of \$415,000 for local charities. Our theme for the drive, which ends June 20, is "Committed to Serving Our Communities." One of our goals is to increase employee participation in the payroll deduction plan from the 60 percent we achieved last year to 75 percent this year.

I've been asked to chair the campaign and I've asked our executive officers to serve as co-chairs. Teams of campaign coordinators will be selected for each department and operating division. A kickoff breakfast for coordinators is scheduled April 28.

Your contributions will help thousands of people served by nine local agencies: Asian Pacific Community Fund, Brotherhood Crusade, Combined Health Appeal, Earth Share, Los Angeles Women's Foundation, National Hispanic Scholarship Fund, United Latino Fund, United Negro College Fund and the United Way. Please give generously to these worthy causes.

For additional information, please contact Dominique Grinnell, Internal Communications, 922-5641.

Labor Communications

Negotiations with the MTA's three major unions — the UTU, ATU and TCU — began recently. The MTA's representatives on the negotiating teams are committed to reaching agreement as soon as possible.

We've committed to open and frequent communications with all employees during labor negotiations. As a means of getting the word out, we've created The Communicator, a newsletter that will provide information about labor topics. The first issue was distributed March 12.

Bring Your Daughter to Work

I'm looking forward to participating in Take Our Daughters to Work Day, Thursday, April 24. The MTA will join businesses and organizations throughout the nation in observing this annual event.

I plan to bring one of my nieces to work with me that day. I hope you'll join me by bringing your daughter, granddaughter, young relative or friend. Please call Sonya Turner-Lynch, Equal Opportunity Programs, at 922-2631, for registration forms. They're due April 14.

Take Our Daughters to Work Day is a state-sanctioned learning day and absences from school are excused. This year, we've also scheduled June 26 as a day for boys to visit the MTA. Equal Opportunity Programs and the Diversity Task Force will coordinate the event.

Tunneling Update

The crews and machines who are cutting their way through the Santa Monica Mountains have passed the half-way point. Averaging 50 to 60 feet a day, they've excavated more than 7,000 feet of the 2.5 mile tunnel, according to Project Manager John Adams.

Two giant machines are digging southward from Universal City. Sometime next Fall, they'll meet mining crews who are tunneling north from Hollywood using conventional hand mining and roadheader machines. No explosives have been needed for the tunneling, although explosives will be used later to excavate a track crossover, cross passages and track level rooms deep in the mountains. The contractor will take extensive precautions to minimize noise and vibration.

Thus far, we've had no complaints from neighbors above the tunnel route about vibrations from the tunneling machines. The contractor is pumping less water out of the tunnel than expected, although some seasonal springs at the surface have been affected. To offset that, the MTA is using the local water supply to irrigate affected areas.

Duck, Cover and Hold!

The MTA is observing Earthquake Preparedness Month in April. Please take time to review your personal emergency plan in the event of an earthquake. Remember: if a tremor hits, duck, cover and hold!

Headquarters employees participated in an earthquake drill April 1. We'll be involved in other activities as the month goes on. Earthquake preparedness buses will visit each operating division. We'll distribute earthquake information on Metro buses and trains and conduct an essay contest in the schools.

We've also scheduled an earthquake preparedness fair in the Gateway East Portal, April 24, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The fair will include a demonstration of the CUBE system, which provides early warnings of earthquakes.

Volunteers Needed

One of the best community outreach events the MTA co-sponsors every year is the Greater Los Angeles Vendor Fair. This year's Fair is scheduled April 16 at the LA Convention Center. Volunteers are needed for no more than a half-day each to staff registration and luncheon reception. Lunch will be provided to volunteers.

If you're interested in volunteering for the Vendor Fair, please contact David Hershenson at 922-1087. If you can't volunteer, but would like to attend the Fair, all exhibits are open free to MTA employees with identification.

Closing Thoughts

April 18 has been selected as the day for celebrating the MTA's fourth anniversary. As I reported earlier, we'll have an agency-wide celebration with the theme, "Honoring our past, embracing our future." Banners will be displayed at each MTA location to acknowledge the important role of former agencies.

Every employee will receive a special anniversary T-shirt with the words "Embracing our Future" on the front and the logos of MTA predecessor agencies on the back. This promises to be a celebration we can all look forward to...and remember for many years to come.



Linda Bohlinger

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