

#4

July 24, 2003
MTA Board Meeting
CEO Remarks

Metro Gold Line - PUC

I am happy to announce that we have received the letter from the Public Utilities Commission stating that they have completed their evaluation of the operation safety certification of the Metro Gold Line. They have approved the final operation safety certification and have given us the green light to move forward with the operation of the Metro Gold Line. They further acknowledge that there are several design and construction work around items that need to be completed but understand that these items do not impact the safe operations of the Metro Gold Line.

Mobility-21 Event – Emil Frankel, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy

Last Friday I welcomed Emil Frankel, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy for the U.S. Department of Transportation at the Mobility 21 briefing. I had invited Mr. Frankel to address members of Mobility-21 on the Bush Administration's plan to reauthorize America's highway, transit, motor carrier, safety and research programs -- SAFETEA. I was also eager for Mr. Frankel to learn more about the reauthorization priorities shared by the MTA and other transportation advocates in Los Angeles County

In his remarks, Frankel provided details of SAFETEA and explained why the Bush Administration believes the measure should be adopted by both the House and Senate and subsequently signed into law by the President. He addressed concerns held by Congressional Democrats and Republicans and transportation advocates that the \$250 billion set aside by the Administration for SAFETEA is inadequate. He also fielded a number of questions from attendees, including several queries related to Bus Rapid Transit, the New Starts program, and efforts to improve the safety of our nation's transportation highway and transit system.

Metro Gold Line East Side Extension - Washington D.C. Trips

This past Monday, members of my staff met in Washington DC with officials from the FTA's Planning, Programming and Engineering Departments to discuss the MTA's pending Full Funding Grant Agreement for the Metro Gold Line East Los Angeles extension. Our staff received positive feedback on the information they presented and have been asked to provide some minor follow-up materials.

At the meeting, MTA staff was informed that the FFGA process may be delayed due to an arbitrary internal 90-day risk assessment analysis that must be completed prior to the FTA Administrator forwarding the recommended FFGA to the Office of Secretary of Transportation and the Office of Management and Budget.

I am scheduled to meet next week with U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta to discuss the status of our pending FFGA.

Announcement of Roadeo Winners

This morning, we're honored to announce the winners of both the international Rail Roadeo and the Bus Roadeo competitions.

Rail - The 11th Annual APTA International Rail Roadeo was held on June 7, 2003, in conjunction with the APTA Rail Transit Conference in San Jose. The Rail Roadeo is designed to encourage excellence and professionalism in rail operations. A total of 17 of North America's rail systems participated, and MTA won first place in the maintainer's competition. Maintainers are judged on their ability to trouble shoot maintenance problems.

Bus - In the 28th annual MTA Bus Roadeo this year, almost 300 operators and nine teams of mechanics tested their skills in a series of events, culminating with the finals on July 19. Prizes were awarded to the top scorers, who will go on to represent the MTA at two competitions later this September: the Southern California Regional Bus Roadeo in Chula Vista and the APTA International Bus Roadeo in Salt Lake City. Now, I would like to turn it over to Gerald Francis and then to Jon Hillmer and Dana Coffey to announce the roadeo winners and present the awards.