Metro executive directors

HAROLD E. MILLER
He became Metro's first executive director in February 1959. He served until he died at his desk June 3, 1964. Miller came to Seattle in 1956 to direct the engineering study that led to Metro's first comprehensive sewerage plan. The Renton Treatment Plant was dedicated in his honor in July 1965.

CHARLES V. (TOM) GIBBS
A University of Washington engineering graduate, Gibbs worked for the state Pollution Control Commission before joining Metro. After his resignation in 1974, Gibbs joined CH2M Hill, an engineering firm, and in 1995 was an executive vice president in charge of water-quality programs.

FRED E. LANGE
A veteran California engineer hired by Miller, he succeeded Miller and served until his retirement in March 1967. He died in 1984.

RICHARD PAGE
A former deputy mayor of Seattle, Page moved up from a Metro administrative staff position to succeed Gibbs. He was the first director who was not an engineer. He left Metro in 1976 to become administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. Later he was director of the Washington, D.C., transit authority. In 1995 he was a Seattle businessman.
NEIL PETERSON
An administrator of the state Department of Social and Health Services, Peterson assumed the director’s post in 1977. He resigned in 1984 on his marriage to Tracy Duiker, then Metro’s finance director. He managed development of a rail transit system in Los Angeles after leaving Metro, and in 1995 was a businessman with interests in California and Seattle.

ALAN GIBBS
Also an administrator of the state Department of Social and Health Services, Gibbs succeeded Peterson. He resigned in February 1989, the result of a controversy over the proposed use of South African granite in the Seattle bus tunnel. In 1995 he was on the staff of Rutgers University in New York.

RICHARD K. SANDAAS
He was the only Metro Councilmember to become executive director. After leaving the council, he worked in Metro’s technical services division and eventually became division director. He was appointed executive director on Gibbs’ resignation. He exercised an early retirement option in 1993, and in 1995 was with CH2M Hill in Bellevue.

CAROLYN PURNELL
Head of Metro’s legal staff, Purnell succeeded Sandaas. She encouraged program innovations to increase customer service and improve operating efficiencies and devoted much of her term to guiding Metro’s merger with King County. For more than a year, Purnell served as one of three deputy county executives during the start-up of Executive Gary Locke’s administration. She resigned in August 1995 as Metro executive director to go into private consulting.
Metro's leadership team in 1994:
Front row, from left: Eugene Elkhall, Human Resources director; Carolyn Jarrell, executive director; Paul Tebben, Transit director; Mary Peterson, transit/homeless manager. Back row, from left: Darrol Griggs, Waste Pollution Control director; Mary Solomon, Executive assistant; Dean Baker, Finance director; Kevin Reynwald, chief counsel; Bonnie Malloch, administration coordinator; Carin Weiss, deputy director; Meredith Counts, corporate communications program manager; Vic O'Brien, Technical Services director.

Metro Milestone
Jan. 1, 1996

The Metropolitan Services Department merges with other King County departments.

With the re-organization of Metro and King County, a 13-member Metropolitan King County Council was formed as the legislative branch of county government. Sitting on the council in 1998 were, from left, Ron Sims, Bruce Lesing, Jim Auger, Larry Phillips, Greg Nichols, Cynthia Sullivan, Kent Fulton (council chair), Louise Miller (vice chair), Brian Tordzinski, Pete van Raakbomin, Christopher Vance, Maggie Fleming and Larry Garrett.