Interviews and commenters

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Richard Sandaas
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Bob Sokol
John Spencer
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Gary Zimmerman

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As a Seattle Times reporter, Bob Lane earned his first byline on a Metro story in 1965. He covered Metro until its merger with King County in 1994.

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Employees participate in a competitive game of volleyball at the annual Metro Employees Recreational Activities Association picnic at Lincoln Park.
Don’t forget that Metro:

- Promised to clean up Lake Washington in 10 years, but did it in nine.

- Ended sewage pollution in the Duwamish River and Elliott Bay and significantly reduced combined-sewer overflows throughout the Seattle area.

- Combined two failing transit systems into a robust, award-winning regional bus operation.

- Became noted for its skilled construction management and for pioneering use of value engineering.

- Built the extremely complex Renton effluent transfer system on time and under budget; the project included the deepest marine outfall in the world.

- Beat the odds and unexpected problems and completed the downtown bus tunnel on schedule, with some segments finished ahead of schedule.

- Faced enormous complications yet had the promised secondary-treatment system at West Point on line before a court-established deadline and within budget.

- Was directed by an unusual and effective federated Metro Council and was created, nurtured, encouraged and critiqued by thousands of caring citizens.
"I think we put one of the best products on the street in the country. We have the awards that acknowledge that. I hope our customers know we've always tried to respond to what they want."

Bob Sokol, North Base supervisor

"Metro was an interesting experiment when it was created as a municipal corporation. It was the only one that tried that form of government. In being successful at cleaning up Lake Washington and in the innovative quality of its transit system, Metro was a great laboratory for the rest of the country."

Gary Zimmerman, Metro Council chairman for 10 years

"Metro was willing to take risks, to explore new ways. It was not just a standard engineering textbook approach."

Dave Gevel, hazardous waste program manager

"Through the cultural-change process, we tried to create an environment where all people had the opportunity to contribute to their fullest potential. We wanted to recognize that our diversity made us stronger."

Anita Dias, cultural change project manager