

# Metro executive directors

## HAROLD E. MILLER

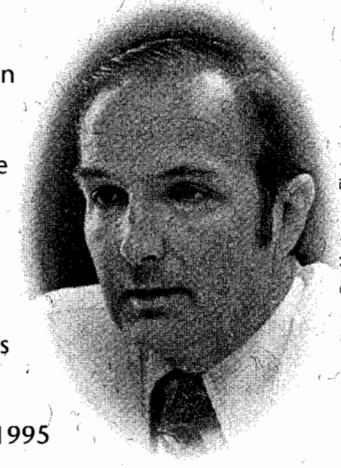
He became Metro's first executive director in February 1959. He served until he died at his desk June 3, 1964. Miller came to Seattle in 1956 to direct the engineering study that led to Metro's first comprehensive sewerage plan. The Renton Treatment Plant was dedicated in his honor in July 1965.



Seattle Times Photo

## 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.



Roy Montgomery Photo

## 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.



**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.



Ned Ahrens Photo

**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.



Ned Ahrens Photo

**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.



Ned Ahrens Photo

*Metro  
Milestone*

March 14, 1995

**A Regional  
Transit Authority  
rail proposal is  
defeated by  
voters.**

Ned Ahrens Photo



*Metro's leadership team in 1994: Front row, from left, Suzanne Elshult, Human Resources director; Carolyn Purnell, executive director; Paul Toliver, Transit director; Mary Peterson, transit/transition manager. Back row, from left, Daryl Grigsby, Water Pollution Control director; Mary Solomon, Executive assistant; Jean Baker, Finance director; Kevin Raymond, chief counsel; Bonnie Mattson, administrative coordinator; Carin Weiss, deputy director; Mareatha Counts, corporate communications program manager; Vic Oblas, Technical Services director.*



Leza Photography

*With the consolidation 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 1995 were, from left, Ron Sims, Bruce Laing, Jane Hague, Larry Phillips, Greg Nickels, Cynthia Sullivan, Kent Pullen (council chair), Louise Miller (vice chair), Brian Derdowski, Pete von Reichbauer, Christopher Vance, Maggi Gimia and Larry Gossett.*

# Metro Milestone

Jan. 1, 1996

The Metropolitan Services Department merges with other King County departments.