Right of Way COWBOY

Paying homage to a mentor

BY MICHAEL MASSE

When it comes to paying tribute to a mentor, friend and coworker, sometimes only a song will do. This one was written and delivered via karaoke as homage to Jay Larson, whose cowboy boots and folksy charm has endeared him to many.

Right of Way Cowboy

Sung to the tune of "Rhinestone Cowboy"

Well we've been widening these streets so long
Some rundown buildings are gone.
We laid down brand new tracks
And added some sidewalks on Broadway.

Well progress is the name of the game,
And ramshackle has to give way for a new water main.
There'll be loads of compromising
As the guideway fills the horizon.
But I'm going to be where the lights are shining you'll see.

Like a right of way cowboy
Standing out on the porch where light rail is gonna go.
Like a right of way cowboy
Sending offer letters to people I don't even know.
Then I get cussed out all over the phone.

Well I really don't mind the rain
And so we'll have an HOV lane.
But you're down when you can't take the train;
Traffic's getting you nowhere.

My dream for light rail came true
With my transit ticket and some Mariners baseball for two.
There'll be loads of compromising
As the guideway fills the horizon.
But I'm going to be where the lights are shining you'll see.

Like a right of way cowboy
Will we replace the Viaduct, does anybody even know.
Like a right of way cowboy
Sometimes it's more like a circus then an ol' rodeo.
Like a right of way cowboy
Travel faster on my horse then in this crazy stop and go.

Michael is a Right of Way Agent based out of the HDR, Inc. office in Edmonds, Washington. Since 1998, he has worked on utility and transportation projects in the Puget Sound area.