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Metro Clean crew leader Charles Grantham supervises a clean-up at a Metro Bus Line 38 stop.



## Spic and Span Metro Clean Crews Banish the Dirt at Bus Stops

- Metro works with local groups to keep neighborhoods tidy

By RICH MORALLO

(Sept. 9, 2005) Metro's Charles Grantham took a closer look at the bus stop at Jefferson Boulevard and Crenshaw Avenue.

"We were just here a couple of weeks ago and look at all of that dirt and grime already back on the pavement," said Grantham, a member of the Stops & Zones Metro Clean team. "I wouldn't want to wait for the bus at this stop under these conditions."

Within moments, Grantham's pressure-wash crew had unpacked a four-foot spray gun, unwrapped the hose and started shooting heated water onto the black-marked pavement around the Line 38 bus pole.

"The Metro workers are doing

PHOTOS BY RICH MORALLO



A Metro Clean crewmember uses blasts of steam from a powerwasher to rid a Jefferson Avenue bus stop of accumulated dirt and grime.

**FOR THE RECORD**

In July, Metro Clean crews cleaned more than 4,000 bus stops, an average of 134 stops a

great. A lot of people use this stop to wait for the bus," said Michelle, a passing Metro rider who takes the bus to travel to Vermont Avenue.

day, throughout Los Angeles County. The crews also pressure-washed 114 stops and collected 5,300 bags of trash.

### **Cleaning 18 bus stops**

That Saturday, Grantham's staff and two other Metro Clean crews were cleaning the 18 bus stops along Jefferson Boulevard between Western and Crenshaw Avenues as part of a neighborhood cleanup project.

"We had asked Metro to be one of our partners in keeping our community clean," said Sharon Anderson, president of the 2nd Avenue Block Club. Anderson and 60 local families joined forces to sweep sidewalks, paint houses and pull weeds that day, and they welcomed Metro Clean to their campaign.

"Unsanitary, littered bus stops reflect negatively on Metro and discourage new riders from trying our service," said Pete Serdienis, the Facilities Maintenance manager who heads Metro Clean.

He noted that, while Metro only owns the bus stop post and sign, the public and bus riders think the transit agency also owns the bus shelters, benches and trash receptacles.

### **Trash left by customers**

"In fact, these amenities are owned and maintained by municipalities or their franchised vendors," Serdienis said. "We recognize that the majority of the trash left at bus stops is attributable to our waiting customers."

In order to make using public transit a more pleasant experience, and to maintain a good rapport with surrounding neighborhoods, Metro Clean sends out crews of unpaid workers who have been referred by the courts to perform community service work. They work alongside municipalities to clean some 18,000 bus stop locations every day, according to Serdienis.

Whenever possible, Metro Clean participates in events like the 2nd Avenue Block Club Clean Up. And community residents, such as Sharon Anderson, and bus riders appreciate Metro's efforts to enhance the cleanliness of their neighborhoods.

"We'll be out cleaning neighborhood bus stops again this coming Saturday," said Serdienis, noting that the 10th Council District has scheduled another cleanup project for the area.