



By BILL HEARD, Editor

(March 15) For 90 frenetic minutes on Metro Bus Line 68, a lost little boy and his grandmother hop-scotched for more than five miles among bus stops in East Los Angeles, constantly missing each other in a desperate effort to reunite.

It all started at about 7:40 a.m., March 9, when Rosa Peraza and her grandson, Brandon Rivera, 9, approached the bus stop at Atlantic and Cesar Chavez. Brandon ran ahead and jumped on the westbound bus. The doors closed and the bus pulled away, leaving Peraza behind. Luckily, she noticed the bus number.

Called BOC for assistance

A frantic Peraza boarded the next westbound bus, hoping to catch up with Brandon somewhere down the line. But, Brandon got off at the next stop, intending to walk back to Atlantic. Peraza missed her grandson, but she asked the bus operator to call the Bus Operations Center for assistance.

BOC alerted the LAPD and Division 1 Transit Operations Supervisor Rosa Graciano, who went looking for the bus she hoped Brandon was on. She caught up with it a Cesar Chavez and Vignes, but the boy wasn't aboard.

Searched every bus going by

Meanwhile, Transit Operations Supervisor Eddie Gomez had joined the chase. He met Peraza at Cesar Chavez and Mission and, together, they drove toward East LA, searching each bus that went by.

Finally, at Cesar Chavez at Atlantic, Gomez and Peraza found Brandon. He was safe, relieved and very happy to see his grandmother.

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