



Catch o' the Day - OK, you had to be there, but this colorful carp turned out to be the prize for top department honors at last Friday's first-quarter review. Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky presented the funny fish to Labor Relations Director Brenda Diederichs.

Four Departments Recognized for Achievement in First Quarter

(Nov. 6) Four departments earned recognition, Friday, Nov. 3, for their accomplishments during the first three months of FY 2001. Honored at the first-quarter review meeting were Labor Relations, Public Relations, Procurement and Government Relations.

Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky praised Labor Relations for helping bring the UTU bargaining talks to a successful conclusion following almost six months of negotiations and a 32-day strike.

Lipsky singled out Government Relations for its role in obtaining \$60 million in federal transportation appropriations and for its liaison work during the Democratic National Convention.

Public Relations, which includes media relations and employee communications, won praise for communicating with the public and employees during the strike.

The Procurement Department was recognized for the dozens of emergency contracts its employees processed to keep essential services in place during the strike, as well as for contract administration support of important transit corridor studies.

Other first-quarter achievements

Among the first-quarter successes reported by individual departments were:

- ▶ **Management Audit** completed 58 construction audits and an audit of the bus warranty program.
- ▶ **Construction and Engineering** began construction on the Metro Green Line maintenance-of-way facility and reported it is on or ahead of schedule on five other projects, including the Metro Blue Line platform extension project.
- ▶ **Human Resources** hired 184 new bus operators during the

quarter and certified 159 other positions, while completing 43 equal opportunity cases.

- ▶ **Risk Management** saved the MTA some \$3.3 million through favorable court verdicts or savings on insurance claims.
- ▶ **Transit Operations** placed 114 new CNG buses in service and continued to make improvements in bus cleanliness and on-time pullouts, while recording a slight reduction in customer complaints. The department also provided highly praised bus and rail service during the Democratic National Convention in August.
- ▶ **Countywide Planning and Development** awarded \$3.9 million in grants, conducted a groundbreaking for the I-210 gap closure and completed a recommendation for a joint development of the Westlake/MacArthur Park subway station that was approved by the Board in October.
- ▶ **Administration** developed the "It's Getting Better on the Bus" advertising program and, through the Real Estate Department, generated \$3 million in lease revenues, exceeding its goal by six percent.

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