

Mobile Comm Center Directed Buses during Weekend Power Outage

(April 2) Metro Bus service continued without a hitch throughout last weekend, despite a planned power shutdown early Sunday at MTA Headquarters. Transit Operations directed bus service from the Mobile Emergency Communications Center (MECC) for 11 hours.

Work crews turned off electrical power to the Bus Operations Center (BOC) on the sixth floor, and on two other Headquarters floors, while major electrical work was taking place.

The MECC, a converted transit coach, was activated at 10 p.m., Saturday, and remained in service until 9 p.m., Sunday. Transit operations supervisors were called in for special duty to staff the mobile center and maintain communications with Metro Bus operators during that period.

Other TOSs remained in the BOC to answer phones and oversee the Metro Rapid system whose operations use a radio system that was not affected by the power outage, according to Ellis Kyles, acting BOC manager.

The TOSs who pulled special weekend duty to keep the buses rolling on schedule were Richard Lussier, John Dover, Tracey Niter, Patrice Hill, Fernando Hernandez, Ramon Fernandez, Urania Banks, Leonell Carrillo, Peter Mellon, Christina Overstreet and George Laun.

Working with Transit Operations to ensure that the communications system remained in service were Information Systems Department Assistant Director Joe Vicente and technicians Anthony Chua, Ron Benner and Brent Howe. Elton Owens of Information Technology Systems also assisted.

[Back to MTA Report](#)



Mobile Communications Center, above, was staffed by, from left, TOS Fernando Hernandez, Dispatcher Patrice Hill, Dispatcher Carlos Morales and TOS Ramon Fernandez.

