

# MTA Bus Operators and Mechanics 'Participate' in Winter Olympics

By AMY HOWELL  
(Feb. 21, 2002) Seventy-two MTA employees are currently "vacationing" in Salt Lake City, Utah.



But they're not sipping hot chocolate by a fire or skiing down any snow-covered slopes. They're helping to keep people -- and buses -- moving during the winter Olympics.

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Sixty-three Metro bus operators, including five Transportation Operations Supervisors (TOSs) who are also serving as operators, as well as nine mechanics, requested to take vacations during this time, in order to be in Salt Lake City while the Winter Olympics are taking place.

Most of them left on February 3, before the opening ceremonies were held, in order to receive training, provided by the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC), and familiarize themselves with the routes they would be driving.

## SLOC contacted bus agencies

"The Organizing Committee contacted bus agencies around the United States," said James Falicki, Transportation Systems and Support supervisor, who acted as a facilitator when the effort began just over two years ago. The SLOC also contacted bus agencies in Canada and Europe.

Flyers were posted to encourage participation. Approximately 185 Metro bus operators and mechanics (who were able to take vacations during this time) volunteered, Falicki said.

Although 45 bus operators and nine mechanics were originally selected, the SLOC eventually needed more operators. These operators were selected to participate only a week before Feb. 3.

"It was last minute," said Falicki, but, "they were given the time off to go—they were excited about it."

## A paid 'vacation'

The operators and mechanics are receiving an hourly wage, in addition to a per diem for meals and other expenses. The SLOC also provided transportation to Salt Lake City, as well as accommodations.

The operators and mechanics were provided traditional uniforms and cold weather gear, as well as pins and other Olympic-related memorabilia. Most are expected to return home Feb. 23.



Bus operators and mechanics currently in Salt Lake City.  
Names in red denote TOSs serving as operators:

**Bus Operators**

**Mechanics**

- Alarcon, Lourdes
- Alarcon, Ramon L
- Alvarez, Ramon
- Alvarez-Mitchell, Socorro G
- Andrews, Derald L
- Aranda, Mike M
- Augspurger, Juan A
- Beymer Thomas, Tammy A
- Bowen, Jerome P
- Brawner, Ace L
- Castillo, Gustavo
- Coleman, Terrence C
- Coutts, Reynaldo
- Del Cid, Lucio H
- Diaz, Eric
- Dieguez, Jose E
- Dryden, Daniel
- Esquivel, Brenda
- Ethridge, Ben R
- Franklin, Earl
- Freeman, Peter A
- Fresnedo, Rosa M
- Garcia, Jose R
- Garcia, Julio C
- Gardner, Patricia
- Gomez, Nellie
- Henry, Billy C
- Hill-Soto, Jose
- Hinojos, Alberto
- Horvitz, Tony
- Hubler, Betty
- Hubler,Loren
- Lampton, Rochetta E
- Lindsey, William E
- Madison, Warren J
- Malone, Will A
- Miller, Ernest H
- Mitchell, Patrick D
- Mota, Ramiro E
- Mulgado, Enrique
- Munoz, Gabrial
- Nembhard, Robert H
- Newman, Kathleen M
- Ouellette, Richard
- Owens, Fredrick H
- Perez, Helen
- Pobol, Eugene
- Ramirez, Roberto
- Ramos, Arturo
- Rause, Ed
- Reyes, Rosendo
- Richardson, Darryl L
- Rodriguez, Robert
- Romo, Juan
- Arrendondo, George
- Brennan, Pat
- Dupré, Lawrence
- Enriquez, Miguel
- Grazziani, Edger
- McWaters, Paul
- Rubio, Yezid
- Semadeni, Albert
- Swedenhjel, Lenora

- Sarabia, Roberto
- Schouten, Harry D
- Sims, Cordell
- Singer, David I
- Stokes, Phillip R
- Tinsley, Michael J
- Wilson, Jessie L
- Zamora, Rigoberto
- Zisner, Benjamin S.

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