



PHOTO BY JENNIFER YEH

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Mike Davis,  
administrative  
and financial  
manager at  
Metro  
Westside/Central,  
took an  
interesting turn  
as interim  
transportation  
manager at  
Gateway Division  
10.

### *Fish Out of Water?*

## **Westside/Central's Mike Davis Experienced Life at Division 10**

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Jan. 8, 2003) Normally, Mike Davis deals with administrative or financial matters and supervises a staff of five or six.

But, for two-and-a-half hectic weeks in December, he had command of 415 employees and 325 buses as interim transportation manager at Gateway Division 10.

Currently, manager of administrative and financial services for the Westside/Central service sector, Davis, 53, has spent most of his 12 years with MTA in financial management, procurement or budgeting.

He was tapped by General Manager Tracy Daly to fill in at Division 10 while she was selecting a new transportation manager. Tom Jasmin, formerly manager of the Bus Operations Control Center, assumed the Division 10 post, Jan. 6.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity for a headquarters manager to experience life at a division," says Daly. "With a greater understanding by our administrators, we can better support the divisions."

### **A complex evolution**

Davis' time at Division 10 covered the December shakeup – a complex evolution in which operators bid for assignments while management shuffles schedules and ensures that operators are certified to drive their new routes.

In addition to handling the shakeup and the day-to-day management challenges, Davis made it his first order of business to be in the yard for rollout at 4:30 a.m. "I shook hands with 75 to 100 operators every morning," he says. "They seemed to appreciate that."

His time in the field also gave Davis a better appreciation of the important role a transportation manager plays in providing MTA's service.

The job is "very intense" and requires good people skills "to get the operators to come to work every day and support you," he says. "You have to talk to the operators and let them vent their frustrations. Sitting

in your office with the door closed just doesn't work out there."

Perhaps his most abiding memory of his time at Division 10 is of the people.

"There are some wonderful people at Division 10 – good men and women," says Davis. "They want the division to become Number One!"

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