

MTA Bus Operator Job Fair a Big Success

By DAVE SOTERO

(March 18, 2003) For many job seekers last Saturday, not even the pouring rain could dampen their desire to drive buses for MTA.

A six-hour job fair at MTA Headquarters drew more than 350 people, all of whom were looking for a ground-floor opportunity to join the agency's army of bus operators who move LA commuters daily through rain, sleet or shine.

By attending the job fair, prospective employees were able to shave one to two weeks off the hiring process.

More 350 applicants showed up to MTA's Bus Operator Job Fair March 15.



MTA recently began a big push to recruit additional bus operators to satisfy the region's growing demand for public transportation, which includes more bus service and additional service hours.

The agency has participated in numerous job fairs recently, including one at Dodger Stadium, where it distributed 700 applications. The effort has included posting the jobs on the EDD web site, announcements in Metro Briefs and direct-mailed announcements to operating divisions and service sectors.

200 candidates tested

Approximately 30-40 volunteers from Human Resources, ITS and General Services were involved in Saturday's job fair, which tested more than 200 candidates through six three-hour testing panels.

Applicants watched a video of incidents on a bus and were asked questions as to how they would react to those situations. They also took a reading comprehension test and wrote a bus operator incident report.

MTA Human Resources will score the tests this week, and will be ready to hire applicants in two to three weeks. MTA accepted another 150 applications for future testing.

"It was a big success," says Scott Lloyd, senior HR analyst and organizer of the event. "We had people who showed up as early as 6 a.m. to get the process done in one day. Those are the kinds of people who will make great MTA bus drivers."

The agency also will attend job fairs in April at the LA Convention Center, in May at Hollywood Park and may conduct another job fair during the summer.

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