

Crossroads Depot Division 2 will upgrade its NABI 7000 series buses by installing a rubber cover to eliminate a sharp corner on the driver's seat platform.

## Operator's Idea Improves Safety for Metro Bus Passengers



By FRANKLIN A. HOLMAN

(August 14, 2003) After witnessing an elderly man trip and hit his head on a sharp corner of the driver's seat platform, Crossroads Depot Division 2 Operator Luis Rodriguez took the first step to make Metro Buses safer for patrons.

Rodriguez brought the sharp corner to the attention of Transportation Manager Thom Pelk. They discussed how the bus could be made safer and coordinated with Maintenance Manager Donell Harris on how to make the improvements.

The result is that Division 2 will upgrade its NABI 7000 series buses by installing a rubber cover to eliminate a sharp corner on the driver's seat platform.

The entire fleet also will receive the upgrade, which is set to be complete in about 30 days.

"Having people like Luis around creates a shortcut for MTA to become a safer agency because they don't just keep information to themselves," says Pelk.

Rodriguez also pointed out that the sharp edge posed a danger to over-anxious children who are not paying attention and hurrying to get on the bus. The elderly man who sustained injuries was transported to the hospital and received stitches.

"Operators are our ears and eyes out there," says Pelk. "When they contribute ideas, they provide information that managers may not be aware of."

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