

Orbital consultant John Tyni, seated, tests ATMS on new console as Bus Operations Control Manager Tom Jasmin reviews.



PHOTOS: GAYLE ANDERSON

Bus Operation Control Ready to Roll

- Advanced technology system coming online and on board advances tracking capability.

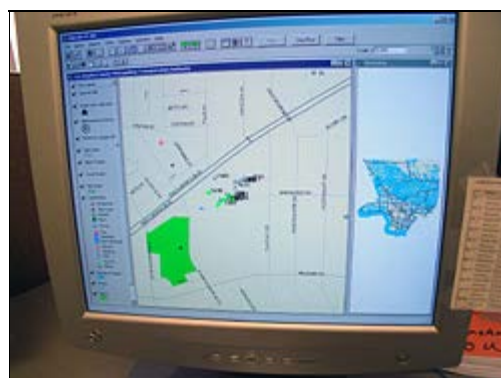
By GAYLE ANDERSON

It's the 'air traffic control' of the MTA. While all may be quiet on the home front during the transit strike, Bus Operation Control is manning the critical communication center systems, albeit with a skeletal crew.

"BOC remains a vital resource in emergencies," says Manager Tom Jasmin.

In addition to emergency calls that may come at any time from the fire department, law enforcement and MTA divisions, the center monitors the ADA Hotline and remains a source of information for inquiries from operators and personnel.

When the strike ends, bus controllers will return to new and vastly improved Automated Transit Management System (ATMS) consoles that will enhance the BOC's tracking system with a high-tech, state-of-the-art capability. From the new consoles, controllers will be able to electronically board the bus in real-time.



"We can pinpoint the location of a bus within ten feet," said Jasmin. "We can also determine the number of passengers on

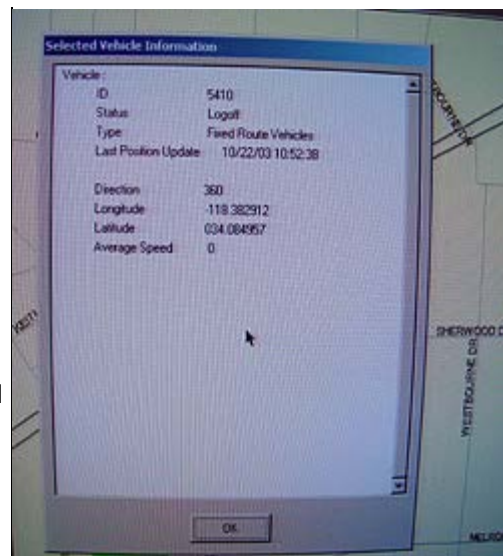
Controller pinpoints bus on screen, above, and reads data on a separate screen, below.

board and advise the operator in various situations.

"Most significantly, in the event of an emergency on board a bus, controllers will now be able to listen in on what is happening," said Jasmin.

The ATMS system has already been installed at Divisions 1 and 2. The contractor, Motorola, has been outfitting 22 buses a day at Division 7.

The MTA's fleet of more than 2,000 buses began to be outfitted with the communication system in September. The entire operation should be rolling by April 2004, noted Jasmin.



Tyni establishes contact at console with readied buses to test newly installed system. Installations are complete for the divisions 1 and 2 fleet.



Along with the new consoles, returning bus controllers will find a tidy work area. Data entry has been brought up to date, remedial work made current and the carpets thoroughly vacuumed.

All may be quiet on the home front, but, Jasmin says, BOC is ready to roll in a heartbeat.

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