

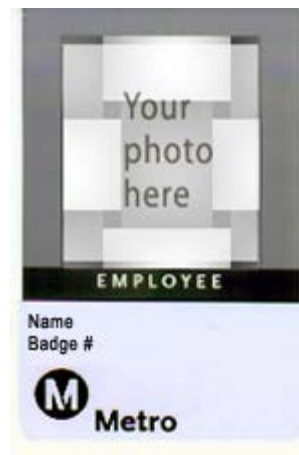
New ID Badges Will Make Life Easier for Employees

By VERONICA TORREJÓN

(Jan 14, 2004) New employee badges set to debut this year will ultimately pack a 3-in-1 punch, serving as a combination smart card, access card and identification badge.

The badge, which will feature the new white-on-black Metro logo, should be unveiled later this year, says Marketing Communications Officer Jeff Ringsrud. New badges are currently being tested.

"Technical challenges have postponed the immediate issuance of new ID badges," says Ringsrud.



New employee badges will serve as a combination smart card, access card and identification badge.

Employees can continue to use current ID badges until new ones are issued, says Human Resources Supervisor Scott Lloyd. Some badges, such as those held by temporary or contract workers, will have expiration dates and should be renewed.

Replacing expired cards

"Interns and those who have an expiration date on their card can come in and we will print them up a new card," he says. Employees can also choose to keep their current picture or have another taken.

The implementation of the new ID cards is timed to correspond with the unveiling of the Universal Fare System (UFS), now in its final design phase. Chief Administrative Analyst Helen Cosner expects the system will roll out to the public sometime in the 2004-2005 time period.

The UFS system will allow passengers to use wallet-sized "smart cards" instead of cash or tokens to pay fares on the Metro or municipal transit systems. MTA employees also will use their new ID badge to gain access to buses or trains, says Cosner.

Restricted area access

Eventually, the new ID badge will replace current ProxCards, which give employees access to stairwells and restricted areas. In addition, employees working on the new TransitSafe, M3 and ATMS systems will use the "universal card" to access those systems.

The new system will prevent unauthorized users from gaining free access to services reserved for employees by allowing lost or stolen cards to be turned off remotely from a master central computer system.

Ultimately, employees will be able to use their badges like debit cards at the Gateway cafeteria or with other authorized vendors.

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