

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [CEO Hotline](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/
Library](#)

► [Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Retirement
Round-up](#)

Metro Info

► [Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)

► [Org Chart](#) (pdf)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

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Pedestrian enters restored walkway at the East Portal entrance to the Gateway Transit Center.



Patsaouras Plaza Revisited

- Unique brickwork of roadway is restored to original pattern following extensive repairs.

(Nov. 4, 2004) A repaired and reconstructed Patsaouras Plaza reopened to traffic Nov. 2, following extensive improvements to the pedestrian, automobile and bus areas of the plaza's roadway.

Buses were rerouted during the first phase of the reconstruction work, which began in mid-July, said Steve Noonan, Chief Engineer of the Catellus Development Corporation who managed the repair work.



Patsaouras Plaza
re-opened to traffic
Nov. 2.

As workers labored to duplicate the roadway's unique tri-color pattern of the brickwork, traffic was curtailed and bus access limited during the project's second phase, which took about six weeks to complete.

Since the Transit Plaza first opened in 1995, the constant passage of heavy buses had displaced and cracked the brick pavers and granite blocks of the pedestrian crosswalks.

At the south turn of the busway, water seeping from the landscaped park undermined the layer of sand supporting the bricks, and the weight and movement of the buses caused them to buckle, said Noonan.

One of the areas that suffered the greatest wear was just west of the south turn where an emergency hatch provided access to a DWP transformer that supplies power to the Metro Red Line.

To give the roadway better support, workers closed the emergency hatch and removed its steel plate cover, said Noonan.



Before and after: Above, workmen replaced paver bricks from the deck of the south end of the roadway that had buckled under the weight of buses. Below, workers removed damaged granite and replaced it with colored brick to mark pedestrian walkways.



The area at the top of the Vignes Street ramp also was damaged by bus movement. New bedding sand was placed and the pavers reinstalled.

The Plaza repair work was undertaken by Charles Pankow Builders, the original builders of Gateway Center, and managed by Catellus Urban Development Corp., which provides property management services for the Union Station complex. Nakada + Associates, Inc. is responsible for the repair work design.