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Metro Rail Team Finishes Second at APTA International Event

- Employees invited to Raildeo Celebration on Saturday, June 25

By WILBUR BABB

(June 7, 2005) The Metro Rail Operations team finished in second place overall at the 13th annual American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Rail Rodeo.

Metro Rail Fleet Services Specialists Ronnie Burt, Eric Czintos and Rafaele Mastrangelo took second among the teams of competing mechanics. In the operator's competition, Metro's team of Tu Phan and Ruben Ramirez placed third.

The competition was held June 2-6 at the South Hills Village Rail Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. The APTA International Rail Rodeo is a skills competition among the nation's "best of the best" rail personnel who keep North America's rail transit systems on the move.

Top overall honors went to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) operator and maintenance team. A total of 18 of North America's finest rail transit systems, with 31 operators and 38 maintainers participated.

Top-caliber team

"This goes to show you the level of talent that exists within Metro Rail Operations," says General Manager Gerald Francis. "Finishing among the top two transit agencies in the nation says a lot about the caliber of Metro Rail personnel. I am very proud to be associated with a team that accepts any and all challenges, and they should be congratulated for their efforts."

The operators competition measured professional skills, including train operation, knowledge of safety regulations, train equipment, and track right-of-way rules and procedures. The maintenance competition judged the ability to troubleshoot maintenance problems.

"This is another demonstration of the professionalism of Metro's rail staff," says Deputy CEO John Catoe. "Considering the competition they faced from rail transit agencies around the country, this is an excellent score. I think they're Number One."

Now that the rodeo competition is over, Rail Operations will recognize the accomplishments of this year's participants during an afternoon of food, fun and entertainment at the Metro Raildeo 2005 Celebration.

The event will be held, Saturday, June 25 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., at Metro Red Line Operations, 320 S. Santa Fe Ave. All Metro employees, their families and guests are invited to attend. Admission is free.

