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UFS Project Manager Jane Matsumoto shows how customers will use a TAP Smart Card to purchase Metro passes, transfers or new Smart Cards once the UFS system is in service.



Photos by Bill Heard

## **UFS Equipment Installations Move TAP into High Gear**

- TAP fareboxes, TVMs and validators ready by spring 2006
- Muni buses to have TAP equipment by June 2007
- Plus! Metro Employees Encouraged to Help Test TAP Equipment

### By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 18, 2005) Metro's Universal Fare System project has moved into high gear with new TAP ticket vending machines, validators and fareboxes all scheduled to be installed throughout the system by next spring.

And, by the end of June 2007, TAP equipment should be ready for operation on most municipal transit buses – providing seamless travel throughout the region for LA County commuters.

Customers will flick the validator with their TAP cards to enter the Metro Rail system or a Metro Bus. The validator electronically extracts from the TAP card the amount of money required for



the ride.

"Customers can use one card to travel on all Metro Bus and Rail lines and on muni service," says Gateway Cities General Manager Alex Clifford, who is overseeing the project. "For Metro, the ability to gather data on trip patterns will help us better plan efficient service and become even more responsive to our customers' needs."

Work crews from UFS contractor Cubic, supervised by Metro Quality Assurance, New Technology and Revenue Collection personnel, already have installed TAP fareboxes on buses at divisions 9, 8 and 15 and are currently working at Division 1.

# Spring 2006 completion

Fleet installations at all 11 Metro Bus divisions should be completed by spring 2006, according to Project Manager Jane Matsumoto.

Other Cubic crews have installed new TVMs at Union Station and 7th and Metro, and have drilled holes in the mezzanine floors for installation of TAP validators. Equipment installation for the entire Metro Red Line also should be completed by next spring.

Starting at 7th and Metro and at the Long Beach Transit Mall later this month, crews will begin installing new TVMs and TAP validators on the Metro Blue Line, work that should be completed in December. The Metro Green Line project is set to begin in November and completed in early January.

On the Metro Gold Line, TVMs have been in use since last June for cash transactions and for TAP use with Metro employee ID badges. TAP validators have been installed and will be enabled when installation of all UFS equipment on other Metro Rail lines has been completed.

"We're really cooking on rail," says Matsumoto, "and you'll soon start to see more buses with UFS fareboxes."

On the Metro Orange Line, set to open to the public Oct. 29, UFS equipment already has been installed at all 13 stations on the transitway.

Guests attending the official Orange Line ceremonies, Oct. 28, will receive commemorative TAP cards for use on opening day.