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In 2006, Metro's weekly passes will include an employee's photo and slogan. Monthly and semi-monthly passes will feature Metro technology and innovation.



Employee Photos, Slogans Will Highlight 2006 Weekly Passes

- Technology, innovation featured on monthly, semi-monthly passes

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Dec. 16, 2005) The smiling faces of 52 bus and rail operations employees will be featured throughout 2006 on Metro's weekly transit passes beginning Jan. 1.

First up – Ramona Escareno, a CCTV observer at the Rail Operations Center. She'll be followed by Wilber Vanderploeg, a Metro Red Line operator, Christopher Patrizio, a machinist at the Regional Rebuild Center, and 49 others week after week.

Along with the photos, each weekly pass will have the employee's title and a slogan – for security reasons, names are not included.

For Escareno, the slogan is: "Leading the team." For Operator Vanderploeg, it's: "Friendly and knowledgeable." Mechanic Patrizio's pass bears the slogan, "Fabricating parts for Metro vehicles."

"It's good for our customers to see the employees – whether it's a bus or train operator, a mechanic or a facilities maintenance employee – who provide their service day-to-day," says Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis.

Thus far, only the photos and slogans for the first 31 employees have been scheduled for printing on the weekly passes. The list of others who will be featured hasn't yet been finalized.

Technology and innovation

Metro's monthly and semi-monthly passes for 2006 will feature themes emphasizing the agency's technology and innovation.

The January monthly pass, for example, includes a photo of solar panels and notes that Metro has the, "Largest transit system solar panel system." The February pass pictures a ticket vending machine with a video panel.

The semi-monthly pass for Jan. 16 – 31 includes a photo of a tunnel boring machine of the type that will be used on the Eastside Extension. The March 16 – 31 pass pictures a Metro bus surveillance camera.

Metro's Design Studio designed the monthly, semi-monthly and weekly passes for 2006; photography is by the department's interns.

Here's a list of 28 other employees whose faces and slogans will be featured, in order of appearance, on weekly passes for the first half of 2006:

- Daniel Quigg, project engineer, "Buying the nation's most advanced buses."
- Chris Young, mechanic "A", "Making buses brand new, inside and out."
- Jeff Barton, welder, "Making tools for buses, engines and more."
- Mike Lozano, production planner, "Making sure the work gets done."
- Oswaldo Gonzalez, painter "A", "Applying reflective decals to make buses shine."
- Jo Ann Derbigny, train operator, "Dedication, passion and commitment, every day."
- Pam Parker Ehrich, train operator, "Always willing to help and lead the team."
- Lorenzo Rivera, train operator, "Known for great work ethics and performance."
- Hector Lopez, painter "A", "Making LA brighter, one bus at a time."
- Resendo Reyes, train operator and U.S. Marine, "Now serving our country overseas."
- Melvin Henderson, train operator, "Customer service is a part of every day."
- Connie Diaz, mechanic "A", "Rebuilding bus parts to keep you moving."
- Mike Barnes, train operator, "Active participant in the Local Safety Committee."
- Rogelio Chacon, train operator, "Customer service is always his priority."
- Julio Flores, bus operator, "Enjoying his job since 1989."
- Laura Lakis, bus operator, "14 years behind the wheel."
- James Ray, mechanic "A", "21 years servicing Metro vehicles."
- Lorena Serrano, bus operator, "Enjoying 14 years of public service."
- Robert Morvedt, bus operator, "Retired after a lifetime of service."
- Jesus Rivera, mechanic "A", "Working hard at Metro for 13 years."

- John Hill, mechanic "A", "Keeping LA moving for 23 years."
- Debbie Jimenez, bus operator, "Retired after 23 years of service."
- Javier Castro, mechanic "A" leader, "Keeping Metro buses safe for 26 years."
- Mary Ann Garcia, bus operator, "15 years of dedication."
- Richard Lopez, acting transportation operations supervisor, "Raised \$62,000 for Hurricane Katrina victims."
- Michael Mitchell, mopper waxer, "27 years behind the scenes."
- Pedro Lara, bus operator and mentor, "Trains new Metro Bus operators with a smile."
- George Sandoval, bus operator, "18 years of service and dedication."