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From Aerospace to Metro Rail, Aida Asuncion Meets the Challenges

Former aerospace systems engineer was recently named deputy executive officer of Rail Operations



Deputy Executive Officer Aida Asuncion

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Aug. 18, 2006) Aida Asuncion spent much of her career as an aerospace systems engineer making things fly. For the past 13 years, however, her career has been firmly planted on the ground making sure Metro Rail keeps on rolling.

Recently named deputy executive officer of Rail Operations, Asuncion is responsible for rail communications, transit systems engineering – which includes the Bus Operations Center and ATMS – facilities services and facilities maintenance for the rail system.



Go to > [Meet Aida Asuncion: A Family and an Active Career](#)

In a department that includes some 260 employees, she oversees the work of transit system engineers, as well as rail communication maintainers and inspectors for communications and control systems.

Her staff also monitors all rail capital projects and contract changes, making sure the funding and financial documents are in order. In addition, they help initiate new projects, oversee project paperwork and submittals, and monitor project progress.

Recently transferred to Asuncion's department was the rail facilities and custodial services group. These employees are responsible for making sure Metro Rail facilities and stations are regularly cleaned and maintained.

Interesting challenges ahead

Asuncion’s department has some interesting challenges ahead, among them adapting to wireless technology, and expanding the SCADA train control and communications systems in preparation for operation of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension and Exposition Line.

“In the next five years, things will definitely change, but I believe it will be for the better,” she says. “We’ll find that technology will push us to make changes and to adopt newer technologies as they become more efficient and more useful to us in transit.”

Although her new department has just come together following a reorganization of Metro Rail executive responsibilities, Asuncion expects it will be at least six months before she makes any further changes.

“I take pride because the people are all very technically qualified, both in engineering and in maintenance,” she says. “I’m very fortunate to have a group like that.”

Photos by Gayle Anderson