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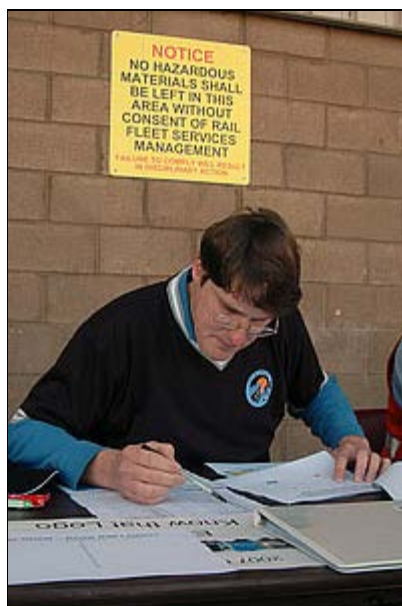
Metro's Rail Maintainers Post Win at International Rail Rodeo

- Eric Czintos, Ronnie Burt and Toshimasa Manaka take top honors
- Metro places third with combined team score

(June 6, 2007) Metro's team of rail equipment maintenance specialists took first place, June 2, in the maintainers competition at the APTA International Rail Rodeo in Toronto. Metro was third in the combined team score.

Eric Czintos, Ronnie Burt and Toshimasa Manaka outpaced rail maintenance teams from San Francisco's BART system and from the Denver Regional Transportation District to win the event. The Metro team placed second in this category in 2005 and 2006.

Photos by Ned Racine



Rail maintenance specialists Eric Czintos, at left, Ronnie Burt, at right, are pictured during the 2007 Metro rail rodeo in March. Along with Toshimasa Manaka, not pictured, the team took first place in the maintainers competition at the APTA International Rail Rodeo in Toronto.

Metro's rail operators – Tu Phan and Robert Rodriguez – placed seventh in the operator competition. The men have competed together and separately at previous Internationals, scoring wins for Metro in 2000, 2001 and 2002.

Metro's ranking in the International Rail Rodeo continues the agency's winning record in competitions with the nation's largest transit agencies. In May, the agency's team won the Grand Champion Award at the APTA

International Bus Roadeo in Nashville.

Representing Metro at that event were Arthur Winston Division 5 mechanics Frank Forde, Rommel Vargas and Andrew Warren, and San Gabriel Valley Division 9 Operator Mark Holland.

‘Great Transit Operations team’

Acting Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers congratulated the Metro Rail team on behalf of all employees. “We have the best maintenance team in both rail and bus in the nation. That just reinforces the fact that, despite our resource constraints, we have a solid workforce here. We have a great Transit Operations team!”

Winning the prestigious Rail Transit Team Achievement Award, this year, was the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. The SEPTA operator and maintenance team had the highest combined score – 1,460 – of all competitors at the 15th annual International.

The Sacramento Regional Transit District scored 1,418 points to take second place and Metro racked up 1,399 points for third place, ahead of Houston’s Metropolitan Transit Authority with 1,351 points.

With the SEPTA team scoring first in the operators’ competition, operators from Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority earned a second-place finish and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority team came in third.

A total of 20 of North America’s rail transit systems, with 36 operators and 53 maintainers, participated in the annual event. The International Rail Rodeo was held at the Toronto Transit Commission’s Greenwood Yard.