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The new \$5 bill features the same security features that are now seen on the \$10 and \$20 bills. The redesigned bill will circulate beginning March 13. Image courtesy of the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing

New to Your Wallet: Security-Laden \$5 Bill

- Bill will feature the same security measures as the \$10 and \$20 bills have for several years.

By JIMMY STROUP

(Jan. 24, 2008) Metro is preparing to accommodate the newly redesigned \$5 bill, which is scheduled to go into circulation on March 13.

The introduction of the new bill will demand Metro adjust its bill readers across the system. It will also require employees who handle cash to familiarize themselves with the unique design and security features the new \$5 uses.

The change represents a large upgrade to all of the Metro fare boxes and ticket vending machines (TVMs).

"Our contract with the equipment providers covers upgrades for changes with the Treasury," said Terry Matsumoto, chief financial services officer. "It's no small undertaking. 2,700 boxes need to be upgraded. And the buses can't be moving when this happens, so it's a challenge."

Similar to the designs of the newer \$10 and \$20 bills, the \$5 will feature watermarks on both sides on Lincoln's portrait – a line of "5s" on the left and a larger "5" to the right. The larger watermarked "5" replaces the old watermark, which was a portrait of Lincoln.

The bill's security thread has been moved from the left to the right side of Lincoln. The thread glows blue under an ultraviolet light. The U.S Treasury Department has also elected to print a Great Seal of the U.S. in the background to the right of Lincoln.

An arc of purple stars now surrounds the 16th president's head, replacing the oval border and shaded area that are on the current \$5.

Protecting your hard-earned money

"Since 2003, the United States government has been issuing newly designed bank notes in an effort to stay ahead of currency counterfeiting and protect the economy and your hard-earned money," said Kathleen Coyne at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

"Because U.S. currency is so widely used outside the U.S., we want to

make sure that business and financial communities, foreign exchange companies, law-enforcement groups, banking officials, other cash handlers and, ultimately, the general public around the world know about the new bill designs and features,” she said.

The equipment contractors Metro deals with are responsible for installation of the upgraded equipment the fare boxes and TVMs will need to read the new \$5, Matsumoto said. After the installation, Metro will maintain the fare boxes. TVMs are maintained by contractors.