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Thousands of spectators braved the rain to watch the 93-mile final stage of the Tour of California. Riders finished with six five-mile laps around the Rose Bowl.



Photos by Ned Racine

Metro Sponsors Bicycle Valet Parking at Damp Final Stage of Tour de California

• Metro volunteers partner with Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

By NED RACINE, Editor

(Feb. 26, 2008) Undeterred by intermittent rain, Metro volunteers partnered with the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition last Sunday to provide secure bicycle parking and information tailored to travelers who use two wheels rather than four.

Metro sponsored a Bike Valet, where attentive volunteers and a secured area allowed riders to safely park their bicycles. Lynne Goldsmith, Metro Bike planning manager, estimated the valets parked 200 bicycles.



Staffing her position in the Metro transit booth, Fe Alcid-Little, a secretary in Contract Administration, Operations, handed out stacks of Metro bicycle maps. Metro volunteers also showed bicyclists, such as this damp rider, how to mount their bicycles on Metro bus bicycle racks.

Cory Zelmer, a transportation planner and president of the Metro Cycle Club, volunteered at the Bike Valet, as did Tony Jusay, a transportation planner; Kathleen McCune, transportation planning manager; Kathleen Sanchez, transportation planner manager, with husband Dennis, and Doreen Morrissey, transportation manager.

With Fanny Ortiz, a customer service agent, and Juanita Le Roux, a custodian, Fe Alcid-Little staffed the Metro transit booth, located across from the bicycle parking valet. Alcid-Little, a secretary in Contract Administration, Operations, volunteered because she wanted to "promote bus and bike, so people will be aware that we have a good bus and rail system."

Alcid-Little handed out stacks of Metro Bike Maps and offered Metro System advice to bicycle riders,



Susie Laio, a Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition volunteer, checks a rider's bicycle into the Metro-sponsored Bike Valet parking. The volunteer valets parked 200 bicycles.

including someone who wanted to visit the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. She described how to reach Long Beach via Metro Rail. "Why park?" she asked the visitor to the booth.

In addition to handing out patch kits and safety blinkers, the Metro booth featured a replica of a bus bike rack, allowing Metro volunteers to show bicyclists how to attach and unattach their bikes from a Metro bus.



Besides helping cyclists on Sunday, Metro also advertised the 14th annual Bike to Work Day on Thursday, May 15.

Rey Couts, a transit operations supervisor in Central Instruction, Operations, delivered and retrieved the displayed bus bike rack. "The rack really attracted people to the booth," Goldsmith said.

Goldsmith believes Metro's presence at the last leg of the Amgen Tour of California fit "with our promotion of bicycle use, to promote bicycles as a form of transportation."

She was philosophical about the precipitation. "Cyclists don't stay indoors because of the rain," said Goldsmith, who spent much of the day in a yellow raincoat.

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