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Dave Miklic, San Fernando Valley senior safety specialist, and John Dover, San Fernando Valley Vehicle Operations, TOS, show how their new variable message devices can be mounted on a vehicle. The sign is displaying 24-inch-tall letters. *Photo by George Trudeau*

Mobile Illuminated Message Devices Are Signs of the Time

- Computerized signs ready for Metro Orange Line repaving

(Oct. 1, 2008) In preparation for the repaving of stretches of the Metro Orange Line, scheduled to begin Oct. 6, San Fernando Vehicle Operations just added two highly visible tools to its toolbox.

Two variable messaging signs, measuring 60 by 28 inches each, were provided by Metro Construction to offer bus operators clear directions during the upcoming paving work on sections of the Orange Line.



The folded message sign stows in the rear of a

Vehicle Operations supervisors will determine the messages to be displayed and the locations of the signs to help guide operators during the detour. Easily deployed, the signs fold neatly into Vehicle Operations vehicles.

"They have a lot of flexibility," said Dave Miklic, senior safety specialist. The signs can be mounted on a vehicle, placed on a tripod to stand alone and can be connected to a power pack to run when no vehicle is present.

According to Miklic, the signs will free transit

Vehicle Operations unit.

operations supervisors (TOS) for other duties, such as helping guide riders during the

repaving process.

Miklic emphasizes the 43-pound signs would later be valuable in unexpected situations on the Orange Line once paving is complete.

Designed to be seen by drivers traveling up to 65 miles per hour, the message systems display characters up to 24 inches. When characters are reduced to seven inches tall, the sign can display three lines of text. And because their LED displays are extremely bright, the signs can even be effective on lighted streets.

Each \$10,000-dollar sign (including accessories) comes with preset messages and can be programmed by a TOS using a Blackberry device.

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