

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)



Chief Operations Officer Carolyn Flowers and Equipment Maintenance Superintendent Michael Stange present CHP Commander Mike Kelley, center, plaque to commemorate the diligent inspections of Metro Bus divisions undertaken by the CHP during the last 20 years. The unique plaque was handcrafted at the Metro Support Services Center machine shop. *Photo by Gayle Anderson*

Metro Buses Rate High on Safety, Maintenance

By Laura Kloth
myMetro.net

Metro's bus divisions received an overall rating of "Satisfactory" for 2008 with the lowest number of out-of-service buses in three years, according to a report issued by the California Highway Patrol's Motor Carrier Group.

The "Satisfactory" designation is the highest awarded by the CHP and that's good news to Metro officials, said Metro's Equipment Maintenance Superintendent Michael Stange.

Metro's 11 divisions received the high rating after thorough inspections revealed they had very few write ups and that equipment was properly maintained. Inspectors also examined operator records and log books and found them to be satisfactory, Stange said.

CHP Commander Mike Kelley, who oversees the inspections, said his team inspects the technical equipment by examining both the interior and exterior of the buses, as well as the driver's logs and records to ensure they are in compliance with California Code of Regulation requirements.

The inspection is required once every 13 months for each division by California Regulations, and is necessary to allow buses to continue

operating in LA County.

Chief Operations Officer Carolyn Flowers, Stange and Deputy Executive Officer John Roberts Jan. 9 presented Kelley with a plaque to commemorate his ongoing assistance with the inspections. Kelley has partnered with the Operations Department for more than 20 years, Stange said.

"The CHP inspection is truly important for safety, for service reliability and service performance. If we don't pass it, we could not be in business," Flowers said.

As part of their inspection, the team checks many items on the bus including brake and steering systems, as well as air, hydraulic and oil leaks and any other potentially unsafe equipment deficiencies.

"They look at anything that's likely to cause a mechanical breakdown, unsafe condition or result in passenger injury on a bus," Stange said.

Driver's records are examined to ensure driver hours are not violated. Inspectors also check licenses and medical certificates and check to see if drivers are up-to-date on any required training.

Stange credited operators and maintenance staff with a positive report saying they work together as a team to maintain the fleet and resolve related problems through good communication.

"They (staff) take pride in their work. They understand the regulations and work hard to ensure the equipment is safe, and that operators are well trained in providing on-time and efficient service," he said.

As part of Metro's ongoing concern for regulatory compliance and safety, Metro buses and driver records undergo periodic simulated CHP inspections throughout the year to keep them compliant, Stange said.