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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](#)

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- ▶ [30/10 Initiative](#)
- ▶ [Policies](#)
- ▶ [Training](#)
- ▶ [Help Desk](#)
- ▶ [Intranet Policy](#)

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Central City Division celebrates Operator Gregory Brown's amazing safety record of 27 consecutive years of accident-free operation in and out of the Division's bus yard. From left are Assistant Transportation Managers Regina Bird and Rosa Graciano, Operator Brown, Transportation Manager Sonja Owens and UTU Local 1562 Chairman Robert Gonzalez.

Central City Division celebrates 27-year safety record of Operator Gregory Brown

(August 4, 2009) A day without accidents is a day without injuries, damaged property and extraordinary circumstances that mangle resources and alter lives. So when Central City Division Operator Gregory Brown reached 27 consecutive years of one day at a time with no accidents and injuries, it was great cause for celebration in the division's training room.

Operator Brown, who navigates Line 62 daily from downtown to Hawaiian Gardens didn't know why he was called into the office July 22 by Transportation Manager Sonja Owens until he saw the engraved plaque, which noted for posterity that the division is forever proud of his 27 years of service without a chargeable accident.

Among other honors and tributes, 27 years of accident-free operation earned Operator Brown the top parking space for an entire month.



On hand for the presentation were Manager Owens, Assistant Transportation Managers Rosa Graciano and Regina Bird, and UTU Local 1563 Chairman Robert Gonzalez.

"We are so proud of this operator. To go that many years without an accident is a great achievement," said Gonzalez.

"Safety is what we emphasize in service performance," said Owens, who says Brown's safety record sets the standard for the entire division. "He follows all the rules in the handbook," said Asst. Transportation Manager Rosa Graciano. "That's how we can all get to 27 years."



Co-workers celebrate at the festive cake-eating ceremony that followed the presentation of the official plaque.

Brown, who joined the RTD in 1982, credits his safety record to defensive driving and an excellent training program. What does his achievement mean to him?

"A safe performance for the public," he said, noting the basic principles of safety are the same as they have always been. "We still have a lot of congestion and traffic. The city is still very crowded; we still have to be alert and aware."

— From Gayle Anderson

