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## **Metro Rail Maintainers Win at International Rail Rodeo**

Metro's team of rail equipment maintenance specialists took first place, June 2, in the maintainers competition at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Rail Rodeo in Toronto. Metro came in third in the combined team score.

Eric Czintos, Ronnie Burt and Toshimasa Manaka outpaced rail maintenance teams from San Francisco's BART system and from the Denver Regional Transportation District to win the event. The Metro team placed second in this category in 2005 and 2006.

Metro's rail operators -- Tu Phan and Robert Rodriguez -- placed seventh in the operator competition. The men have competed together and separately at previous international competitions, scoring wins for Metro in 2000, 2001 and 2002.

Metro's ranking in the International Rail Rodeo continues the agency's winning record in competitions with the nation's largest transit agencies. In May, the agency's team won the Grand Champion Award at the APTA International Bus Rodeo in Nashville.

Acting Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Flowers congratulated the Metro Rail team on behalf of all employees. "We have the best maintenance team in both rail and bus in the nation," she said.

A total of 20 of North America's rail transit systems, with 36 operators and 53 maintainers, participated in the annual event. The International Rail Rodeo was held at the Toronto Transit Commission's Greenwood Yard.

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