PHOTO BY LISA HUYNH

Alan Duong of MTA Stops and Zones installs a new bus stop sign on a street light pole at Alameda Street and College Street in Chinatown. Duong and co-workers have placed more than 14,000 decals on bus stop signs throughout MTA's service area.

Stop & Zones Completing Update of 7,000-Plus Bus Stop Signs
By LISA HUYNH

(July 8, 2003) Stops and Zones personnel have almost completed changes to some 7,000 of the 18,000 Metro Bus stops – a job that included placing more than 14,000 informational decals on the signs.

By the end of next week, all affected stops will provide customers with new bus line numbers, destinations and service times. The June shakeup and the start of Metro Gold Line service later this month necessitated the sweeping change.

"The guys are working 14 hours a day and seven days a week," says Stops and Zones Supervisor Thomas Kelso. " On many days we had people come in on their normal days off in order to have all 16 Stops and Zones laborers working on installing the new signs or modifying them."

Due to the enormous number of bus stop sign changes, the project had to begin in mid-May when temporary cardboard signs alerting customers to upcoming line changes were placed at the bus stops.

Just in time

The project should be completed next week, just in time for the July 26-27 Metro Gold Line Grand Opening and restructuring of bus service throughout MTA's service area.

"Bus stop signs are a great aid to our riders and bus operators," says Kelso. "It tells them exactly what bus stops at a specific location, where it's going and what days and hours it operates. It reduces confusion on the street."

Facilities Maintenance Manager Pete Serdienis says the project is about 98 percent completed.

"We have about 200-plus stops that are now being changed on those lines that have newly added Saturday service," he says. "We also have to replace the Line 401 signs with Line 686 signs when the Metro Gold Line opens. When we finish that we can rest and take a little time off."

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