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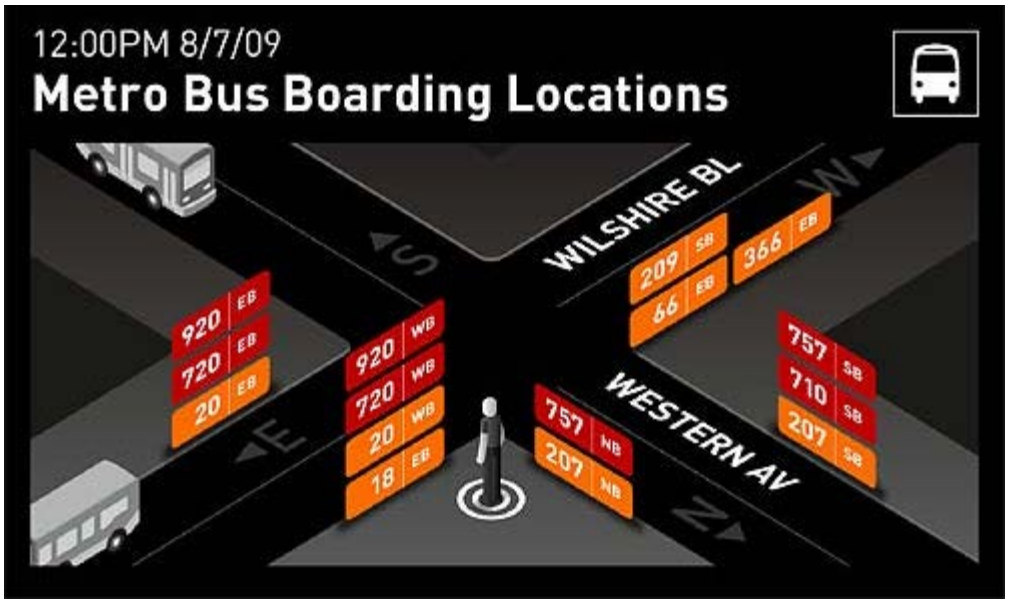

The bus stop location display provides a physical reference point to riders leaving the station.

Rail-to-Bus Connection Program Now Being Tested

- Riders See Real-Time Bus Arrivals On Screen

(August 20, 2009) Metro riders using the Red and Purple Lines at Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/Vermont stations can now access real time, rail-to-bus connection updates, officials announced.

The new five-month pilot program – overseen by Metro's Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) – provides rail riders with arrival information for connecting Rapid or Local bus, explains ATMS Supervising Engineer Al Martinez.

"The visual display provides a physical reference point to riders leaving the station. The bus arrival table provides bus arrival time for the next two buses by line and destination," he said.

The bus arrival screen provides arrival time for the next two buses by line and destination.

Working in sync with existing GPS technology on Metro buses, the ATMS system displays real-time bus fleet location information on large screens located at Metro rail station exits.

Currently, Metro's GPS technology allows bus locations to be updated every five minutes, but that will be reduced to three minutes in the coming months, said Martinez.

If the demonstration project is successful, and if there is funding available, the technology will be expanded to other rail stations and the real-time bus arrival information will also be made available to cell phone users as well as the web, he added.

The pilot program is a partnership effort between ATMS Engineering, who handle bus fleet status information; Rail Communication, who oversees platform displays and network communication; and Metro's design group, which is responsible for the actual design of the visual display.

"The goal of this proof-of-concept demonstration is to determine the feasibility, reliability and functionality of the joint effort with the intent of implementing similar rail-to-bus connection information displays on all appropriate stations along Metro's rail network," Martinez said. "The rail-to-bus connection information system will be monitored from the BOC (Bus Operations Control) to provide bus passenger alerts whenever necessary."

The program will likely be reviewed in December to determine if it will be expanded further throughout the Metro system. — *from Al Martinez*