



Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MTA's Johnson Wins Operator Pre-Trip Competition at International Bus Roadeo

NASHVILLE – Nashville Bus Operator Mark Johnson won the Operator Pre-Trip Competition at the American Public Transportation International Bus Roadeo held Sunday, May 6, 2007, at the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center Pavilion parking lot. He received the award during a banquet Tuesday night at the downtown Renaissance Hotel. One hundred six operators competed in the event.

In the overall competition, Johnson made the most of his second appearance in the APTA International Bus Roadeo, finishing 18th in a field of 77 of North America's best drivers in the 40-foot division. He finished first in the local MTA Roadeo last fall in the 40-foot division and third in the state competition last November.

Mechanics Mike Davenport, Roger Ketron and Charlie Patterson competed in the maintenance roadeo, and bus operator Veronica Beard competed in the 35-foot division.

MTA CEO Paul J. Ballard drove an MTA bus through and obstacle course in the inaugural executive bus roadeo to compete against FTA Administrator James Simpson and Capital Metro CEO/President Fred Gilliam. Gilliam, who will host next year's event, won first place in this competition.

The annual American Public Transportation International Bus Roadeo maintenance competition featured the best bus operators and bus maintenance teams in North America. Local and state bus roadeos were held across North America to select the competitors for this competition. The annual roadeo was held in conjunction with the annual Bus and Paratransit conference, which also began on Sunday. More than 2,000 people were in Music City for these two international bus events.

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