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SCM Struts Skills at 1st Annual Safety Rodeo

Somerville – August 19, 2007– The drivers of SCM Community Transportation got up early this past Sunday for a very important occasion: SCM’s first annual Safety “Rodeo,” and no, that’s not a typo. A “road”-eo is designed to test the on-street skills of professional drivers- including everything from backing into difficult spaces to tying down wheelchairs. And safety is the name of the game. This year’s Rodeo was held in Medford in front of the old Ames Department Store, courtesy of Berenson and Associates and Fellsway Plaza Ltd.

Eighteen participants, one at a time, boarded and drove one of the familiar and beloved blue and white SCM vans though a challenging, cone-dotted course. Each had seven minutes to complete the challenge, proving their ability at serpentine moves, right and left hand turns, getting through narrow spaces and backing up- from the left and from the right. Points were deducted, naturally, if the driver did not wear his seatbelt or made any sudden stops. Drivers also had to complete a written safety test and inspect a vehicle for risky problems- faulty seatbelts, say, or a fire extinguisher that had no charge.

The event demonstrated the superb skills of SCM’s well-known, highly trained staff, who transport 3,300 local seniors and persons with disabilities to doctors’ appointments, grocery shopping and beyond. SCM currently provides more than 8,000 rides a month to residents of Somerville, Cambridge, Medford (SCM) and some surrounding communities.

This year’s first place winner was 14-year SCM veteran Trudy Siraco, otherwise known as SCM’s “driving diva.” Was she surprised to win? “No,” said Siraco, “and the \$100 prize was well worth it.”

SCM plans to make the Rodeo an annual event and invite other area agencies to participate each summer. Who will win next year?

SCM promotes the independence of seniors and people with disabilities through community-based transportation. Our friendly, safe and reliable services help people maintain healthy, mobile and connected lives. For more information about SCM, visit www.scmtransportation.org or call them at 617-625-1191.

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