



BOB HALLINEN / Anchorage Daily News

Youth groups sponsored by the YMCA-Northeast, VISTA and Americorp have adopted the People Mover stop on Mountain View Drive, just west of Bragaw Street. The volunteers keep the bus-stop area clean.

# Taking pride in taking the bus

## Youths take part in People Mover's Adopt-A-Stop program

By ASTA CORLEY  
Daily News reporter

**P**eople Mover recently unveiled its municipal Adopt-A-Stop Program, which encourages people to ride the bus while fostering pride in their neighborhoods.

The program allows civic-minded people to pledge to keep areas around bus stops free of litter and to clean bus-shelter windows at their selected bus stops. Another goal is to keep bus system costs down.

One of the first stops officially adopted is on Mountain View Drive near Brewster's clothing store. The location, which has two glass shelters, is one of the busiest stops within the People Mover system.

During a ceremony in Mountain View last week, some junior high school volunteers were supplied with gear such as vests,

shovels and gloves. They will use the items while working to make areas surrounding bus stops cleaner and safer.

"Most of the kids that are going to be working on that particular location live in that neighborhood," said Dan Carter, marketing manager for People Mover.

Youth groups sponsored by the YMCA Northeast Extension, VISTA and Americorp were present at the ceremony.

"Pretty much, we find one kid and it's a chain action," said Marcus Knighten, YMCA Northeast Extension director. "We pretty much recruit throughout the whole city. We want to network with different organizations."

Some incentives for the kids include awarding of bus passes and community service hours. They also can participate in a free overnight lock-in at the YMCA.

Forty buses operate in Anchorage on 19 routes. There are about 50 bus shelters provided for passengers at the system's busiest stops.

Adopt-A-Stop has existed for about two years informally, People Mover director Bob Kniefel said.

"We've never gone out and publicly solicited people to do Adopt-A-Stop things," Kniefel said.

Word of mouth has been a major form of advertising for the effort, especially among younger people.

The program allows kids to have some ownership of the stop, Kniefel said, while helping to cut down on vandalism.

"I think it's a great effort. We've had great comments from people at stops. Bus drivers have even pitched in in their neighborhoods. It's really great to have that spirit."