



January 9, 1996

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TO: MTA BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES
FROM: ARTHUR T. LEAHY *AT Leahy*
**SUBJECT: MTA OPERATIONS' ROLE IN SUPPORTING TRAINING
NEEDS OF OTHER CARRIERS**

ISSUE

This report is to apprise the Board of the efforts of Operations Central Instruction and the work group's role as regional provider of transit training and transit instructor certification to other Southern California transit operators. Operations Central Instruction staff has conducted numerous Transportation Safety Institute(TSI) federal certification classes for instructors from:

Laidlaw Transit
Mayflower Contract Services
Foothill Transit
Simi Valley Transit
City of Commerce
Fillmore Area Transit
Watts Labor Community Action Committee
Hudson General-LAX Shuttle Bus

BACKGROUND

Effective July 1, 1990, the State of California established training requirements for transit bus operators. Thirty-five (35) hours of initial training for new-hires consisting of in-class and behind-the-wheel instruction and a minimum of eight (8) hours yearly thereafter was mandated. The statute required individual transit bus operators to carry Verification of Transit Training ("VTT") cards on their person at all times while on duty, along with a valid commercial driver's license and medical certificate in order to lawfully perform their jobs.

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The State also required that transit instructors providing the training be certified by the FTA's Transportation Safety Institute (TSI). TSI delegates the certification of instructors to qualified transit agency personnel who successfully complete TSI's "train the trainer" program in Oklahoma City. Operations Central Instruction has on staff such instructors who are authorized to certify instructors from MTA and other agencies to comply with California requirements.

FTA has dictated that transit agencies authorized by TSI to certify instructors must offer certification classes to other agencies on a non-profit basis, charging for classroom materials only. In order to meet this requirement and minimize costs to MTA, Central Instruction schedules individuals from other agencies to join MTA personnel in regularly scheduled instructor certification classes, charging \$75 per student for classroom materials. To date, thirty-nine (39) instructors from other agencies have been TSI-certified by MTA staff. A total of \$2,925 in classroom materials fees has been paid by students. MTA has incurred no additional costs in meeting TSI requirements.

The most recent five-day class, which was comprised of MTA personnel and employees of Foothill Transit, was conducted by TSI-certified MTA Instructors at the Operations Central Instruction facility in El Monte. The class began on Monday, November 27 and concluded on Friday, December 1. Course evaluations completed by students indicate that the classes were very well received.