



July 15, 1998

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: PAUL J. LENNON
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SAFETY
SUBJECT: METRO BLUE LINE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

ISSUE:

The Board of Directors have requested a 60 Day update on the status of the Metro Blue Line Safety Improvements project.

BACKGROUND:

A motion was made and passed by The Executive Management Committee on 5/14/98 and amended by the Board of Directors on 5/21/98 in response to an increase in Metro Blue Line train incidents and fatalities in FY '98. The resolution directed the Office of the CEO to review the current elements of the System Safety plan and develop a comprehensive mitigation plan to reduce Train/Vehicle and Train/Pedestrian accidents.

The following has been committed to:

Engineering Elements

- Signage/Signals
 1. Installation of train-activated "No Left Turn" signs at 55th Street.
 2. Relocation of "T" signals and the installation of active fiber optic "train" signs in Los Angeles street running segment.
 3. Installation of "Second Train Coming" sign at Vernon Avenue.

- Medians
 1. Installation at Manville Street, 92nd Street and 103rd Street.

- Gates and Arms
 1. Installation of "swing gates" at Artesia Station.
 2. Installation of "pedestrian gates" at Gage Avenue, Vernon Avenue, Florence Avenue and 103rd Street.
 3. Installation and Testing of a 4-Quadrant Gate System at 124th Street.

- Lights
 1. Flashing Warning Lights at Vernon Avenue, 55th Street, Century Boulevard, 103rd Street, 119th Street, Compton Avenue and 92nd Street.
 2. Installation of "Running Ditch Lights" to all Metro Blue Line trains.

(As note, LADOT has started to restripe the traffic patterns at 114th and 115th Streets/Willowbrook for increased motorist awareness)

Education Elements

Operations Safety has designed and devised a "Rail Safety Tips for Pedestrians" in Spanish and English and is being distributed by the LA Sheriff's Department - Metro Division.

Administrative

A detailed safety analysis study will be completed by September 1998 to identify and prioritize additional areas of improvement recommendations - ramp modifications, photo enforcement, additional pedestrian gates and arms, and Operation Life Saver and other public education forums.

Risk Management and the Office of Safety will develop an Accident Summary report that will focus on frequency, severity, primary and contributing causes of all train involved incidents and will provide trend analysis and performance measurements.

Enforcement

Transit Police Services has dedicated seven new LASD Motor Officers for enhanced Blue Line traffic enforcement.

During FY'99 LASD will achieve full staffing with resulting additional coverage to Metro Blue Line system.

Attachments

Prepared by: Pam Engelke



Rail Safety Tips for Pedestrians

Safety around railroad tracks is a major concern of MTA. However, we need your help to avoid tragic and needless accidents. Please discuss the safe behaviors listed below with your family, friends and others in your community.

- Don't let your children play on or near railroad tracks. Walking, loitering, or playing on or near the tracks is dangerous and illegal. And remember, at some locations you may not hear the train coming.
- It's hazardous and illegal to throw objects at the train, cut fences, damage rail equipment or put objects on the tracks. Individuals doing so could cause themselves or others to be fatally injured.
- Never use tracks as a shortcut to cross over to the other side of the street. Cross the tracks only at intersections where you see crossing signs.
- Whether you're on foot or in a car, never cross the tracks when crossing gates are lowered. Stop when the lights begin to flash and before the gate begins to go down. Flashing lights mean a train is coming.
- Don't cross until the gates have raised and the lights have stopped flashing. Do not cross until you can see all tracks clearly in both directions.
- Trains may operate at different speeds—some fast, some slow. It's hard to judge their speed, so don't take foolish chances trying to cross.
- Be careful of trains that may come in either direction on any track at any time.
- Watch out for a second train. When there is more than one track, trains may be on any or all of them, or even traveling in opposite directions. Sometimes one train will obstruct your view of another train.
- Never walk in front of a stopped train.
- It's important for parents to teach their children early about railroad track safety and to set a good example.

**So remember...
To stay safe, stay off the tracks.
Thanks for doing your part for safety!**



Consejos de Seguridad del Tren para Peatones

La seguridad alrededor de las vías del tren es una gran preocupación de MTA. Necesitamos su ayuda para evitar accidentes trágicos e innecesarios. Favor de analice las conductas de seguridad que se listan a continuación con su familia, amigos y otras personas de su comunidad.

- No permita que sus hijos jueguen en las vías del tren o en sus alrededores. Caminar, vagar, o jugar alrededor o en éstas es peligroso e ilegal. Recuerde que en algunas zonas puede que no se oiga venir el tren.
- También es peligroso e ilegal tirar objetos al tren, cortar las cercas, dañar equipo férreo o poner objetos en las vías. Las personas que lo hagan podrían herirse gravemente o a otros.
- Nunca utilice las vías como atajo para cruzar al otro lado de la calle. Crúcelas sólo en intersecciones señalizadas.
- Tanto si va a pie, como si va en un vehículo, nunca cruce las vías cuando la barrera del cruce esté bajada. Pare cuando se enciendan las luces intermitentes, antes de que se baje la barrera. Cuando se encienden estas luces quiere decir que viene un tren.
- No cruce hasta que la barrera se haya levantado y las luces intermitentes se hayan apagado. No cruce hasta que vea claramente las vías en ambas direcciones.
- Los trenes pueden operar a diferentes velocidades, algunos rápido, otros despacio. Es difícil determinar la velocidad que llevan, así que no se arriesgue a cruzar.
- Tenga cuidado con los trenes, pues pueden venir por ambas direcciones, en cualquier vía y en cualquier momento.
- Esté atento por si viene un segundo tren. Cuando haya más de una vía, los trenes pueden estar en cualquiera de éstas o en todas, o incluso viajando en direcciones opuestas. A veces un tren puede obstruirle la visión, impidiéndole ver otro tren.
- Nunca camine por delante de un tren que esté parado.
- Es importante que los padres enseñen a sus hijos desde pequeños sobre la seguridad en las vías del tren y que den un buen ejemplo.

Así que recuerde...

Para mantenerse seguro, manténgase fuera de las vías del tren.

¡Le agradecemos su cooperación para una mayor seguridad!