

Metro Board Approved Policy

Fare Exemption for Uniformed Law Enforcement Prsnl

Adopted: August 24, 2006

Historical Perspective

Fare exemption for sworn personnel is viewed by Metro, as well as other transit agencies including Metrolink and Foothill Transit, as a useful tool in heightening a security presence on the transit system. At a time when terrorism continues as a major concern, law enforcement presence helps to increase vigilance, minimize criminal activity and ensure the safety and security of transit patrons and employees. Metro's predecessor, the Southern California Rapid Transit District, had a policy of allowing police officers to ride its buses without paying a fare. However, that policy was not officially adopted by Metro. This item is a recommendation to officially adopt a Metro policy for fare exemption for uniformed municipal law enforcement personnel on a county-wide basis. The staff recommendation adopted by the Board earlier this year was limited to LAPD and provided for the development of an MOU between Metro and LAPD. However, upon further consideration, and in light of the proposed county-wide expansion of the policy, it has been determined that adoption by the Board of the proposed policy is sufficient authority, and MOUs between Metro and the various county-wide law enforcement agencies are not necessary.

**FARE EXEMPTION POLICY:
SWORN UNIFORMED LSW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

It will be the policy of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to permit sworn and uniformed law enforcement officers from all municipal police agencies operating within Los Angeles County to ride the Metro transit system under fare exemption if officers meet the following conditions:

- Wear full uniforms (short- or long-sleeve) with Sam Browne equipment belt (no raid jackets, specialized uniforms or the like);
- Present department-issued photo identification to the fare inspector (Security Assistant) or operator upon request; and
- Stand when the train or bus is crowded or when otherwise asked to do so by Metro staff.

If participating officers are found to be out of compliance with this policy, they will be asked to pay the appropriate fare.

Implementation of this policy will help to encourage municipal sworn and uniformed law enforcement officers to ride the Metro system at no cost. Additionally, uniformed law enforcement personnel will augment Los Angeles Sheriff's Department deputies and security assistants (fare inspectors) should law enforcement action be required. The presence of these additional uniformed law enforcement officers traveling through Metro system is expected to provide a deterrent effect upon those who might otherwise be inclined to commit criminal acts while using the Metro system. Moreover, their nearby presence may potentially speed the response time in the event a criminal act is committed.

7/2006