

Motion by Director Molina

On Saturday, October 16, 2004, a Union Pacific cargo train crashed into homes in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles. Rail officials cited that a defect in a steel track was a probable cause of the break. Twenty-five homes were impacted, two homes suffered irreparable damages and two more homes sustained minor damages.

This is a very disturbing development in the wake of last year's accident in the City of Commerce when a Union Pacific derailment damaged homes terrified residents. Union Pacific must be held accountable for ensuring the safety of its tracks. These are the same tracks utilized by the Metrolink commuter lines each weekday. According to officials, rail tracks are monitored three times a week to identify problems. However, the safety of residents and Metrolink commuters should be of utmost importance and measures should be in place to protect them from future derailments.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board direct MTA staff to work with Metrolink Board members and staff to identify a plan that would increase inspections of the commuter rail lines using ultrasonic technology and other techniques that would identify fatigued rail tracks and report back to the Board within 30 days.

I FURTHER MOVE, that the Board direct County Counsel to request the commercial rail operators and the National Transportation Safety Board to submit to the Board a safety plan and status report on their inspection of railroad tracks in Los Angeles County.

