



Metro

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CEO Roger Snoble



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UPDATE: Mercury Spill Suspect in Custody

Earlier today, detectives from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's Transit Services Bureau (TSB) took into custody a man suspected of spilling mercury at Metro's Pershing Square station on the evening of December 22nd. The man, who is currently being held for questioning, has been identified as Armando Bustamante Miranda. According to Transit Police Chief Commander Dan Finkelstein, two warrants had already been issued for the same man in unrelated drug cases.

TSB, other local authorities and federal counterterrorism officials have been searching for Mr. Bustamante Miranda since December 22nd, hoping to understand why he spilled the mercury on the Pershing Square platform and then called authorities to report the incident. Video released last week shows the suspect crouching on the subway platform before tipping over a vial of liquid. Immediately the man jumped to his feet, searched for, and found a Metro intercom which he used to call an operator stating, "I spilled mercury."

A reporter from KNBC Channel 4 interviewed Gerald Francis regarding this incident last night. The reporter inquired about Metro's hazardous material spill procedures and the measures that the agency has taken to respond to this type of event in the future. A story is expected to air this evening on the eleven o'clock news.

For additional information about mercury from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry, visit: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts46.html>.

Hazardous Materials Training Begins for Rail Staff in Wake of Mercury Incident

Hazardous materials recognition and response training for Metro Rail personnel began Monday in the wake of recent concern about a December 22nd mercury spill at our Pershing Square station.

The first classes were held with surveillance TV observers and transportation operations supervisors at the Rail Operations Center. The classes will continue until all Metro Rail employees and Facilities Maintenance personnel who maintain the rail system are trained. The one-hour session provided by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's Transit Services Bureau concentrates on hazardous materials recognition and reaction.

Earlier today, a reporter with KFI Radio interviewed Metro Rail Operations staff regarding the training. Staff explained that in addition to the heightened skills of Metro employees, our customers will also continue to play an important role through reporting any suspicious activities on the rail system. The story is expected to air later today.

It should also be noted that, beginning tomorrow, Metro will provide a two-and-a-half-hour refresher training course focusing on the agency's existing hazardous materials response plan. The classes will meet several times a week and will include lectures and PowerPoint presentations outlining the reactions expected from frontline personnel during emergency situations.

Barrier vs. Non-Barrier Subway Systems

The *Los Angeles Times* is preparing a story examining various subway systems around the country including the Metro Red Line and the use of barriers vs. the "honor system" presently employed by Metro. The reporter interviewed Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis regarding the use of barriers on our system. It was explained to the reporter one of the advantages to a barrier system is that an agent can be employed at a station's point of entry. This individual can be both an extra set of eyes and ears as well as a customer service agent. It was mentioned that a report regarding the use and costs of barriers on Metro's rail system will be presented to the Board for review in February.

Long Beach Transit Visit

This afternoon, I visited Long Beach Transit to examine the software the agency uses to track their operators. Long Beach Transit has used the software – HASTUS -- in their daily operations for four years. During the visit, I heard positive remarks from the agency's General Manager, Larry Jackson, about Giro Inc., the company who makes the software. In August 2006, Metro awarded the company a \$2.1 million contract to implement this software at our 11 bus and 4 rail divisions.

Joining me on this site visit were Carolyn Flowers, Alex Clifford, Jack Gabig, Dana Coffee, Mark Maloney, and Aida Asuncion. We were able to see first-hand how HASTUS performed in the course of actual operations. From these observations, I am excited to see how this software may transform the work at Metro's divisions and improve the efficiency of our operations.

Independent Citizens' Advisory and Oversight Committee Recap

The Independent Citizens' Advisory and Oversight Committee (ICAOC) met today to receive an audit of Propositions A and C. As in all prior years, the independent auditors, Thompson, Cobb, Basillio & Associates, found Metro to be in total compliance with the propositions' ordinances and noted no weaknesses in internal control. As required by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Reform And Accountability Act of 1998, the Committee set April 9, 2007 as the date for a public hearing on the audit report.

IFB for Metro Blue Line Four-Quadrant Gate Expansion Project

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) will be posted on Metro.net next week for the installation of four quadrant gates along the Metro Blue Line corridor in the City of Compton. Bids for this IFB will be due on March 16, 2007. The Contract Award Date is scheduled for May 18th with an anticipated Notice to Proceed Date of May 29th.

Board members and their staff should refer all consultant/contractor calls pertaining to either aspects of this project to Metro's Contract Administrator Charles Fitzsimmons throughout this procurement period. Mr. Fitzsimmons can be reached at (213) 922-7301.

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