

Transit System 'Virtually Crime-Free,' LASD, LAPD Officers tell Committee

(September 16) – "Your transit system is virtually crime-free," LA County Sheriff's Capt. Marc Klugman declared Wednesday in a statement to the MTA Board's Operations Committee.

"When you look at the number of passengers using the system – both bus and rail – and you look at the number of reported crimes," said Klugman, who heads the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau, "it's such a small number, you're not able to register it."



Klugman's assertion was affirmed by Capt. Vance Proctor, officer in charge of the LAPD's Transit Group. With bus ridership in the City of Los Angeles at 20.6 million for July, LAPD statistics for such crimes as robbery and assault show a ratio of only .38 per 100,000 riders – far below the 5,500 crimes per 100,000 population of the city, itself.

"Any crime on the transit system is one crime too many," Proctor said, "but when you look at the reality of the crime picture, transit within the City of Los Angeles is a very safe conveyance to ride."

LASD, LAPD want Metro Bus Operators to go 'S-L-O-W.' [Click on S-L-O-W](#) for emergency procedure.

Klugman said only 175 bus-related crimes have been reported to the Transit Services Bureau, year-to-date – "a remarkable figure." Although he believes not every crime had been reported, he said it "speaks to how minor the crimes are that are being committed."

Sheriff's deputies are making about 1,700 bus boardings each month, Klugman said, noting that the effort is making an impact on crime in those areas where analysis shows most transit crimes occur.

Proctor told the committee that LAPD undercover and uniformed officers had made 32,407 bus boardings through August, a 143 percent increase over last year. The Transit Group also has worked to ensure that the entire LAPD force is alert to incidents involving Metro Buses.

"We've been to every LAPD bureau staff meeting, every division supervisors' meeting and every single roll call in the city," Proctor said. "We've told the officers, 'You are part of this partnership. You have a responsibility in transit safety in this city.'"

Paul Lennon, managing director, MTA System Safety and Security, reported that the Bus Operations Control Center receives an average of 40 to 45 SAS emergency alarms from bus operators each month. BOCC relays those calls to police dispatch within an average of 2.45 minutes.

Lennon said BOCC's response time for routine calls from operators improved 42 percent between June and August. In June, response time was 24 minutes, Lennon said. That was cut to 18 minutes in July and

to 14 minutes in August. The goal, he said, is to reduce response time for routine calls to 10 minutes.

[Back to MTA Report](#)