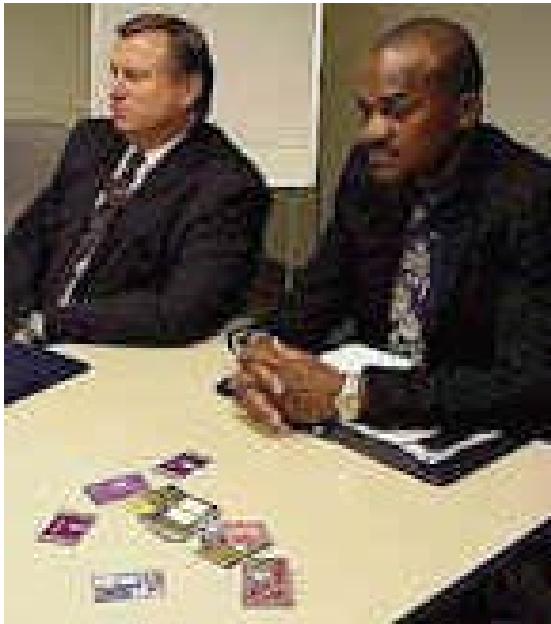


## LAPD Detectives Target Phony Pass, Transfer Sellers



(November 16) Detectives in the LAPD's Transit Group in recent months have targeted sellers of counterfeit transit passes and transfers, making a number of arrests and confiscating dozens of fake passes.

Street vendors sell monthly passes for \$15 to \$20 each, less than half the \$42 price for a genuine pass, says Detective Tim Gipson.

**David Bostwick, MTA Customer Service Sales manager, and LAPD Detective Tim Gipson described efforts to stop the sales and use of fake passes and transfers.**

Bogus transfers, as well as some stolen transfer tickets, also are being peddled on the streets of downtown Los Angeles.

"The MTA distributes 650,000-plus transfers each day," says Agapito Diaz, MTA director of Revenue, "but the agency is selling only about 176,000 a day - 27 percent. Some get returned by the bus operators, but it's hard to account for them."

Diaz praised efforts by Transit Operations to control distribution and account for the use of transfers each day at the 11 bus operating divisions. He noted that at one time some 900,000 transfers were being issued daily.

"It's such a labor-intensive, hands-on system, there are opportunities for abuse," he says.

Police have mounted an on-going effort to track down and stamp out phony passes and transfers and to arrest those responsible for the illegal traffic.

Much of the activity is centered in the downtown area. Since 50 percent of all Metro Bus lines are routed through the area and 9 percent of all transit-related crimes take place there, police are focusing enforcement in the central business district.

"Most people know the risks," says LAPD Capt. Sandy Wasson. "We arrest people with counterfeit or stolen passes or transfers on the Metro Red Line and the buses every single day."

[Back to MTA Report](#)