



Transit Pros Begin Peer Review of MTA Bus Operator Training Program

(March 28) They're a team of transit operations pros, and they've come to Los Angeles at the MTA's request to thoroughly review the agency's bus operator training program.

The four-member peer review team, coordinated by the American Passenger Transport Association (APTA), represents New York City Transit, WMATA (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority) and Houston Metro.

Opportune time for review

"With the intensive demand on the MTA to buy new buses and put new operators behind the wheel, it was an opportune time for us to look at our operator training curriculum," said Paul Lennon, managing director, Office of System Safety and Security. "We asked the peer review team to come because they have expertise in the realm of bus operator training."

The MTA's previous peer review was conducted in 1985, but Lennon pointed out that many transit agencies have never requested such a review.

"This is an inexpensive way to bring real expertise to bear on our operator training," he said, noting that the MTA pays only the team's travel expenses. "We call this 'learn and return' because, although the members come here as knowledgeable individuals to assist us, they - in turn - will learn something from our programs that they can take back with them."

Review classroom procedures

During the team's three-day visit, members will review classroom procedures, training manuals, audio/visual materials and driving skill training provided by the staff at the MTA's Office of Central Instruction in

El Monte. They'll interview operator trainees, teaching staff and managers.

The team also will take an interest in the MTA's accident investigation procedures, and the role operators play in providing accident information and witness statements. In addition, they'll look at the agency's procedures for operator recruitment, testing, background investigations and physical standards.

Although the team will provide an overview of their findings during an "exit conference" on Wednesday, members also will prepare a final report, due to the MTA within three months.

Headed by Greg Hull, manager, APTA Operations, Safety and Security, peer review team members are Christopher Lake, assistant chief, Office of Safety, New York City Transit; Rudy Bacerra, manager, Safety Training, Houston Transit; and Napoleon Jones, supervisor, Bus Operator Training, WMATA.

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