

Second Train Coming

Fibre optic signs warns pedestrians more than one train is approaching a rail crossing.
PHOTOS BY LUIS INZUNZA



MTA Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and MTA Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky demonstrate warning sign for news crews.

(Feb. 9) It was showtime for L.A. County Supervisor and MTA Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, MTA Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky, and Managing Director of MTA Systems Safety and Security Paul Lennon at the Vernon Avenue crossing of the Metro Blue Line on Friday.

MTA officials demonstrated a "second train coming" warning sign, a potential addition to the Metro Blue Line safety system. Currently in use and undergoing evaluation, the fibre optic sign warns pedestrians that more than one train is approaching a rail crossing. The sign was designed with input from community members and is intended to serve as an additional deterrent to illegal crossings that sometimes result in serious injury and death.

The second train coming sign, the first of its kind in the nation, is activated when two or more trains are approaching the crossing. It is designed to alert pedestrians who illegally cross an intersection while the crossing gates are still down to be aware of the imminent presence of another train.

The sign's black and yellow graphics include images of a train, a pedestrian, a grade crossing and an arrow placed in the line of sight between the pedestrian and the train. If

the sign is found to be an effective deterrent, the MTA will seek state approval to retrofit additional crossings.

Funded by a grant from the Federal Transit Administration, the concept for the Second Train Coming warning sign was generated by MTA's Office of Systems Safety and Security, MTA Operations, LADOT and outside rail safety experts.

Channels 9, 22, 34, 52, 56 (Japanese) and 62, ECO Television, KFVB and the LA Times covered Friday morning's press event at the Metro Blue Line Vernon Avenue crossing, where reporters witnessed the activation of MTA's "Second Train Coming" warning sign. KFI Radio and Channel 4 inquired about the demonstration later in the day.

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A multimedia event.