

Pilot Project Will Estimate Cost of Graffiti Zero Tolerance Program

(March 7) How much would it cost in actual dollars and staff time to keep the entire Metro Bus fleet completely free of graffiti?

That's what a team of employees who recently graduated from the MTA's Transportation Leadership Academy will try to determine over the next three months.

The seven-member team, sponsored by Transit Operations Chief Tom Conner, will monitor a Zero Tolerance experiment on a single inner-city bus line. The project will begin Sunday, March 4, and continue through June 3.

On a daily basis, the team will collect data on the expense and staff time involved with keeping the bus line's 47 coaches clean and graffiti-free. From the data collected, the team hopes to estimate the cost of a Zero Tolerance program systemwide.

Team members are Luis Alcantar, Mary Grace-Hall, Gary Jolly, Mike Kennedy, Lorraine Melendez, Pete Serdienis and Behzad Yassan.

The operating division supporting the bus line will ensure that all buses leave the division graffiti-free each morning. Court-referred community service workers stationed at layover zones will clean the buses and remove any graffiti picked up during their runs.

Bus operators on the test line will be asked to note and report graffiti problems and to provide a description of the taggers and the locations where they board the bus.

"We're interested in getting the word out on the street that, with the assistance of our LAPD and Sheriff's Department units, we're going to be attacking vandalism with vigor," said team member Serdienis. The team will draft a report on the project this summer.

[Back to MTA Report](#)

[MORE on Graffiti:](#)

'GHOST Officers Arrest Vandal in Graffiti Spree that Scarred Metro Buses, Little Tokyo'