

Man Killed on Metro Rail Line is First Since Mid-2000

(March 14) A 41-year-old man was struck and killed, Tuesday, while walking on the Metro Blue Line tracks south of the Compton station. It was the first fatality on the rail line since June 26, 2000.

Witnesses said the man, identified as Daniel Villegas Munoz, was walking in a fenced area of the tracks when he was hit by a northbound train. The Sheriff's Department is investigating the accident.

Metro Rail operations said some 100 passengers were on the train, but there were no other injuries. Operations set up a bus bridge between the Artesia and Rosa Parks stations.

The only fatality involving the Metro Blue Line in 2000 was a man who apparently committed suicide by walking in front of a train at 10th and Long Beach Boulevard. Tuesday's fatality is the 55th since service began on the rail line in July 1990.

In recent years, the MTA has become a national leader in efforts to improve rail safety. It has installed quad gates at some crossings, placed left-turn signals at intersections and installed cameras that take photos of cars that cross the tracks illegally.

The most recent innovation is a "second train warning" sign that began operation in February at the Vernon Avenue crossing. The fibre optic sign warns pedestrians that more than one train is approaching a rail crossing.

[Back to MTA Report](#)