

## Transit Ops' Poster Offers Traffic Tips During Rolling Blackouts

(May 8, 2001) Monday's rolling blackout was an effective reminder that the months ahead will be trying ones for homeowners – and for motorists who may have to navigate city streets without the aid of traffic signals.

In fact, a state official recently warned an audience that the state could experience as many as 34 days of rolling blackouts this year.

"Operators, this is a Code 1," shouts a poster now being placed at Metro Bus operating divisions. "Rolling blackouts affect traffic signals, too."

A large photo shows what appears to be a horrific traffic jam at the intersection of Cesar Chavez and Vignes streets.



The "traffic jam" shown on the poster never actually happens, but it could, warns John Roberts of Bus Operations, in a prolonged power outage.

### Congestion could happen

Although it's a composite of five traffic photos, congestion like this could happen in a prolonged blackout, says John Roberts, deputy executive officer, Bus Operations.

"We're putting up the poster to make bus operators aware of the potential obstacles they face at intersections in the event of a power outage," he says.

The poster was the brainchild of Operations Control Superintendent Tom Jasmin and was created by Transit Operations Supervisors Carlos Baez and Ira Camp of the Office of Central Instruction.

It offers five tips to bus operators who may be caught at an intersection during a power outage. Every motorist also should heed these tips.

- **Treat** the intersection as a four-way stop.
- **Know** what you are getting into and where you are going.
- **Slow down** and approach the intersection with caution. Stop if other drivers insist on taking the right-of-way.
- **Show your intentions** by using the proper signals well in advance.
- **Proceed** when it is safe to do so. Look left, right and then left again before entering the intersection.

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