

Walking the Line - Safety message goes gold along the Marmion Way corridor.



MTA Spreads the Message of Safety Along the Metro Gold Line

By ALISHA GOMEZ

(Jan. 7, 2003) As MTA prepares for the excitement of Metro Gold Line testing, the agency also is working to spread the message of safety. Testing will start later this month.

About a dozen Sheriff's Explorers and several MTA employees recently went door-to-door along the Marmion Way Corridor, a densely populated area, where narrow streets parallel the Los Angeles to Pasadena rail line.

"I think it went very well," says Joanne Longsdon, MTA Community Relations Manager. She has been spearheading the safety campaigns for Metro Gold Line.

"We've been going out to the community, visiting every single school along the Metro Gold Line segments," she says. "Some of these schools have thousands of students and we've worked all day long, giving back-to-back presentations to reach them."

MTA is working hard to ensure pedestrians will be safe around the new rail. The group went to about 55 houses, five apartment complexes and a total of 16 multi-family homes.

Residents welcomed the safety crew, asking questions about Metro Gold Line testing and receiving bags of safety literature.

Take care around the tracks

"We want people, especially kids, to be careful along the Metro Gold Line alignment because testing will take place at any time of the day or night," says Communication Officer Carlos Valdez.

Safety Scene

photos by Alisha Gomez



Going door-to-door is just one way MTA is getting the word out to the community. The agency has made safety presentations to 15,000 students and plans to reach a total of 25,245 students by Jan. 31.

The schools MTA has visited include St. Ignatius elementary, Monte Vista and Sycamore Elementary and Franklin High School and others.

"We've made ourselves very accessible," says Longsdon. "We've worked with the San Gabriel Valley Sector and the Gateway Cities Service sector and also attended community meetings."

Due to the restrictive area of the corridor, the speed for testing and operating the trains between Avenue 50 and Avenue 58 will be 20 miles an hour or less.

Flagmen at intersections

During the testing, flagmen will be stationed at each intersection to direct both people and traffic, since light signals won't yet be in operation. Once the power is on, warning signals will display the words "Walk – Don't Walk" and all light signals will be synchronized red when trains pass by.

The Explorers and MTA staff stressed that residents must obey all warning signs and that children should not play around the tracks.

The Sheriff's Explorers said they enjoyed the whole experience.

"It was great helping out the community and showing them that safety is important," says Adrian Avila, a volunteer and freshman at Rowland Heights high school.

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