

'RAIL SAFETY' TOPS MEDIA CHARTS - In advance of the opening July 26 of the Metro Gold Line, Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis, at podium, leads rail safety demonstration at packed news conference held Tuesday at the Metro Gold Line Highland Park Station. Helping to get the word out are reporters from KNBC Channel 4, KNX 1070AM, KABC Eyewitness News, KTLA Channel 5, FOX Channel 11, KPPC, KTTV-KCOP, KCBS-KCAL, Metro Networks, Sing-Tao Newspapers, Sky Link TV, International Daily News, L.A. Web, Inc., The Asian Pacific News, The Chinese Daily News, The Korean Daily, The Los Angeles Times, The Pasadena Star News, The Pasadena Independent, and Pasadena local television channels 55 & 56.



PHOTO BY ADRIENNE FIGUEROA

MTA Taking Measures to Help Ensure Safety on Metro Gold Line

By DAVE SOTERO

(July 15, 2003) With the opening of the Metro Gold Line less than two weeks away, MTA is calling on residents to make safety a priority around trains that will travel through their communities 23 hours a day starting July 26.

"MTA considers safety a partnership with the community," said Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis. "It is a personal responsibility, and everyone must do their part to ensure the safe operation of trains in their neighborhoods."

Trains have not operated in communities along the rail line for years, and a new generation of residents must understand and adhere to safety precautions along the 13.7-mile route.

P-2000 trains are scheduled to run approximately every 10 minutes among 13 stations during peak hour commute times, and approximately every 12 to 20 minutes during non-commute hours.

Suite of safety measures

MTA has employed a suite of rail safety measures that have proven effective for 13 years on the Metro Blue Line.

- Four-quadrant gates have been installed at key intersections to completely seal them off when trains



are crossing.

[Click image for the illustrated guide to safety features of four-quadrant gates.](#)

- Loops embedded in the pavement detect vehicles that may be caught within the intersection as the gates descend. They will automatically lift the nearest gate to allow the vehicle to escape.
- 23 of the 30 at-grade crossings are equipped with pedestrian and swing gates that completely close the crossing to foot traffic.
- Fiber optic signs installed on traffic signal cantilevers will give drivers advance warning of approaching trains.
- Signage and striping at intersections complies with Public Utilities Commission regulations.

MTA will closely monitor other safety measures as well.

- Station parking lots will be well lit, and closed circuit television cameras will be installed for monitoring purposes.
- Stations will be equipped with emergency intercoms that will be directly linked to close circuit television observers. Station structures also will be well lit and will have no hiding spaces.
- To deter graffiti, flat surfaces have been minimized and wrought iron fences used instead of block walls.
- Sheriff's Department security assistants will inspect fares at rail stations, allowing the Sheriff's Department to extend its coverage and visibility.
- Fare inspectors will provide riders with information, directions and other assistance. They also will be able to write citations, call for backup using the same radios as Sheriff's deputies, and resolve issues.

A force multiplier

"MTA will have more station security coverage than it has ever had before with these fare inspectors," said Francis. "They will supplement the eyes and ears of law enforcement, acting as a force multiplier to increase security on the Metro Gold Line, which frees up officers to focus on critical law enforcement duties."

Since September 2002, MTA's Community Relations Rail Safety team has attended scores of community events and given presentations at 71 area schools, reaching nearly 48,700 students with the rail safety message.

Retired rail operators have joined MTA's community outreach effort as safety ambassadors. They're safety-trained and work directly with residents to encourage appropriate safety behavior and answer questions.

The newest tool in MTA's safety education arsenal is the "Metro Experience" mobile safety theater that employs advanced video and 3-D effects to simulate the operation of a P2000 train along the

actual Metro Gold Line route.

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