

MTA Increases Photo Enforcement on Metro Blue Line

PHOTOS BY ADRIENNE FIGUEROA

By ADRIENNE FIGUEROA

(Sept. 16, 2003) In an effort to reduce the number of red light violations on street portions of the Metro Blue Line, MTA has recently installed new camera boxes at nine rail crossings along the 22-mile alignment.

The photo enforcement project was designed to identify motorists who make illegal left turns through rail crossings at intersections with high accident rates.

"Hopefully, the cameras will act as a deterrent for violating laws," says Abdul Zohbi, manager of System Safety, Rail Operations. "This is strictly to tell people that this is dangerous and illegal."

Records indicate the photo enforcement project has played a significant role in reducing the number of rail accidents since its inception in 1995. A total of 17,874 citations for red light violations at rail crossings had been issued as of July 2003.



Abdul Zohbi hopes cameras will deter red light violations at Metro Blue Line crossings.



Sign warns motorists of surveillance in advance.

Six state-of-the-art cameras – priced at \$50,000 each – will be rotated among the nine new camera boxes. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department will determine the frequency of the rotation.

Illuminate motorists' faces

The new installations will use a flash bulb to illuminate motorists' faces and license plates – two features needed in order to issue a citation. LASD will issue the citations, which will be processed in Compton Superior Court.

For the first few weeks of September, Sheriff's deputies have issued notices instead of citations, allowing motorists the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the new cameras.

After this period, red light violators will face a \$271 fine and a hold on their automobile registration renewal if the fee is unpaid.

MTA worked with Affiliated Computer Services and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation on the project.

"I would also like to extend thanks to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, without whom, the program could not have been as successful," Zohbi says. "Working with the LASD has been a terrific and rewarding experience. We have had a great conviction rate over the years thanks to LASD's tenacity in pursuing and enforcing the grade crossing laws."

[Back to MTA Report](#)