

Composite of two photos provided by LASD Lt. Mike Parker shows position of broadsided limousine after collision with Gold Line train on Thursday afternoon.



Train vs. Limo

Passengers Unharmd in Metro Gold Line's First Accident

By Lt. Mike Parker

Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau Report

(Nov. 21, 2003) Nearly 12 hours after service on the Metro Gold Line service had resumed following the transit strike, a collision involving a limousine and a slow-moving train occurred at Avenue 52 and Marmion Way in Highland Park. It was the first accident since the Metro Gold line opened on July 26.

The limousine occupied only by the driver drove through a red traffic signal, Thursday afternoon at 4:09 p.m., causing a collision with a westbound Metro Gold Line train.

The Gold Line train was traveling less than 20 mph towards Union Station when the limousine attempted to pass in front of the slow moving train.

Metro Gold Line Sheriff's Deputy Jose Belmares, who was a block away at Avenue 52 and Figueroa when the collision occurred, arrived within seconds. Numerous deputies arrived shortly thereafter, as did MTA Rail Manager Duane Martin and Sheriff's Lt. Pat Jordan.

There were no injuries on board the train. The approximately 40 passengers were transferred to another train and left the scene within 30 minutes. Single tracking rail service resumed within 30 minutes of the collision and full service resumed in about an hour.

The driver of the limousine complained of pain to his chest and back and suffered burns on his right leg from hot coffee.

Broadsided by the train, the limousine sustained major damage. The damage to the train coupler was listed as moderate.

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