

MTA Hosts Special Transit Safety Training Course

By ADRIENNE S. BLYTHE

(Dec. 4, 2003) Westside Central Senior Safety Specialist Dave Miklic is finally seeing almost 10 months of planning and organization come to fruition. This week, MTA is hosting a four-day training course taught by the Transportation Safety Institute.

TSI is the educational branch of the U.S. Department of Transportation. It offers training to transportation entities around the country. "It is a great way to educate our employees because it is low cost, but very high-quality," says Miklic.

"This course is about transit industrial safety management," he says. There are three instructors: a Senior Associate Instructor for TSI, the Safety Director of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and the Safety Director from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Miklic says the opportunity to network with other transit agencies is a valuable part of the TSI courses. "We get to exchange ideas, and get new perspectives from all across the country."

The course included 12 participants from MTA. There also were nine individuals from such transit properties as Portland, San Francisco and Sacramento. The participants will get a certificate upon completion and will be able to share what they have learned with others in their agency.

The training course started, Tuesday, and will end on Friday. There are three days of classroom instruction and on the final day participants get the opportunity to apply their knowledge. The course will conclude with a field exercise inspection of the facilities at Division 10.

"There were so many details that I had to work out to coordinate this training course, including hotel accommodations and transportation for the out of town participants," says Miklic. "But it was definitely well worth it."



Participants from MTA and other transit agencies listen to a presentation by Pamela McCombe, Director of Safety for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority.



An instructor directs a class of 20 during the TSI training course.



PHOTOS: ADRIENNE BLYTHE

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