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Appearing in a Metro Rail safety video, Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis, on screen, cautions kids: "Tracks are for trains, not fun."

Metro Hosts 'Safety Summit Meeting' for LAUSD Principals

(Dec. 9, 2004) Concern for the safety of children at school and in their neighborhoods was the topic that drew some 150 school principals to a Wednesday morning "safety summit meeting" hosted by Metro.

The Los Angeles Unified School District officials heard presentations on pedestrian, traffic, bicycle and rail safety, fire safety and neighborhood watch, among other topics.

Speakers included representatives from the LAPD, LADOT, Automobile Club of Southern California, Metro and a number of local safety organizations.

"We're asking the principals to make the streets around their school safer and help make children safer and healthier," said Tana Ball, LAUSD project director. "This is a great way to open school district doors to all the safety programs."



Metro's rail safety program manager, Barbara Burns, describes the agency's program during

Ball praised Metro's initiative, especially the effort led by Rail Safety Program Manager Barbara Burns to form a partnership with LAUSD.

Burns was among those making a presentation during the safety summit. She provided an overview of Metro's nationally recognized program and showed the agency's rail safety videos, including the new animated film, "Look, Listen and Stay Alive Featuring the Metro Safety

the "safety summit."

Kids".

Partnering with LAUSD

Metro began partnering with LAUSD last spring to expand the reach of its rail safety program to communities farther away from Metro Rail lines.

Over the months, Metro developed an interactive training video for LAUSD and trained the district's safety officers and others from the School Safe Traffic Zone program. That effort helped reach 36,500 LAUSD students in the first six months.

"The program has always concentrated on schools within a 1.5-mile radius of the Metro Gold and Blue Lines, but we have been looking for ways to reach the whole county," Burns said. "We started with LAUSD as a pilot program, because they were the largest. Now that we have seen it can work well, we will attempt the same kind of partnership with all the school districts."



Three cartoon characters play at a Metro Rail station in the rail safety video, "Look, Listen and Stay Alive."

Metro has received permission to expand its program to Pasadena, South Pasadena, Compton, Norwalk, and is working to include the Long Beach School District.

"Our goal is to have our safety programs shown in every school in LA County twice per year," said Burns. -- *By Shantay Iosia and Bill Heard.*