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Student examines Metro Orange Line brochure at safety presentation conducted at Thoreau High School in Woodland Hills.



Metro, LAUSD Taking Orange Line Safety Program to Schools

- Showing kids and parents how to stay safe near transitway

By DAVE SOTERO

(Oct. 19, 2005) Metro and the Los Angeles Unified School District have partnered to deliver safety presentations to more than 100 schools within a 1.5-mile radius of the Metro Orange Line, bringing the agency's "Safety 1st" message to thousands of Valley school students, teachers and parents.

The safety program, which includes an animated video presentation, drives home the importance of obeying all signs, signals and street striping on the transitway, scheduled to open to the public, Oct. 29.

Since the program began in September, Metro has conducted 33 safety presentations, with an additional 28 scheduled by the transitway opening date.

Forty-one additional schools will be given safety presentations following the opening. Of these 102 schools, 80 are elementary schools, 11 are middle schools and 15 are high schools.

LAUSD assisted Metro in identifying and contacting the schools and has



Carlos Valdez, Community Relations Officer, presents safety video to Thoreau High School students.

sent Metro safety information to school administrators.

Encouraging school participation

“We are encouraging as many area schools as possible to take advantage of these excellent Metro safety presentations,” said Tana Ball of LAUSD’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, whose district includes portions of the San Fernando Valley, applauded the agencies “for working together to help keep our school children safe.”

Metro has adapted its popular, nationally recognized Rail Safety Training Program expressly for the Metro Orange Line. A 20-minute presentation given by Metro safety representatives provides school children with an overview of the transitway and station intersections.

“We created our own safety outreach program from scratch, and it is now considered a benchmark for school-age safety training across the country,” said Lynda Bybee, Deputy Executive Officer of Metro Community Relations.