

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Paramedics set up triage area along the Metro Orange Line alignment to examine passengers jostled in collision near the Woodman Station.



Photos by Dave Sotero

Added Precautions Bolster Safety Measures on Metro Orange Line as Accidents Mar Transitway's Opening Week

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Nov. 4, 2005) - Added precautions are bolstering already stringent safety measures on the new Metro Orange Line after two collisions between cars and 60-ft MetroLiner buses at traffic-jammed intersections of the alignment Wednesday.

Within minutes of the first accident, which occurred shortly after 11 a.m. west of the Tampa Station, Metro San Fernando Valley General Manager Richard Hunt issued an order for all Orange Line bus operators to increase caution and reduce speed at intersections. Buses now slow to 10 mph when approaching green lights at intersections.

As day broke on Thursday, the fourth day of operation of the 14-mile transitway, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, board chairman, dispatched teams of traffic officers to 12 intersections to help drivers take heed of traffic regulations, such as speed restrictions, stop signs and responsible awareness of traffic conditions.

The traffic officers are stationed at the intersections of Burbank and Fulton, woodman and Oxnard, Woodley, Balboa, White Oak avenue, Lindley, Reseda, Wilbur, Tampa, Corbin, Mason and DeSoto from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays for at least two weeks.



Car that struck Metro Liner bus is towed from the accident scene on Woodman.

Meanwhile, Councilwoman Wendy Greuel called an emergency meeting of the safety task force, a committee made up of representatives of Metro, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept., the Los Angeles Police Department and LADOT city traffic engineers and convened by Mayor Villaraigosa the week before the Orange Line opened to the public.

"Everything is on the table," said CEO Roger Snoble, including calls for installation of crossing guards and consideration of innovative warning systems, such as adapting the 60-ft buses with strobe lights.

Officials discussed installing additional signage, flashing lights, and stepping up security and other measures.

"We have a safe transitway operation, but we're looking at ways to increase the safety measures on three fronts - education, engineering and enforcement," said Snoble.

In terms of education, the on-site school and community meetings conducted by Customer Relations and the print collateral of brochures and advertising will be bolstered by public service announcements featuring Mayor Villaraigosa.

The Los Angeles Times reported seventeen people injured in the two collisions on Wednesday. Both accidents involved motorists reportedly running red lights. The more serious collision Wednesday occurred shortly after 2 p.m., at Woodman Avenue and Oxnard Street just west of the Woodman Station. A 78-year-old woman driving south on Woodman — who, witnesses told police, was talking on a cellphone — ran a red light and crashed into the midsection of a bus, spun around and struck the bus again.



Damage to the Metro Liner from collision on Woodman and Oxnard was minor. Photo above shows scrape on wheel well caused by the second impact of the collision.

Fourteen aboard the bus were taken to hospitals with minor injuries, the Times reported. The driver of the car, transported to the hospital in critical condition, is now listed in fair condition.

Orange Line service was not disrupted by the accidents, only slightly delayed when buses were rerouted to nearby city streets from approximately 2 p.m. to when the accident scene cleared shortly before 5 p.m.

The first crash occurred shortly after 11 a.m., at Corbin Avenue, which intersects the alignment at Topham Street west of the Tampa Station. Two people — the motorist and a fare inspector on the bus — were taken to hospitals with minor injuries, police said.

Witnesses told police that the motorist, a 65-year-old woman, was making a right turn through a red light.

The posted speed limit at the intersection is 35 mph for buses and cars, although bus operators were directed to pass through intersections cautiously and maintain ability the brake quickly. The 24-ton buses, which are fully equipped with a disc brake system, are able to stop even faster than the lighter 40-foot bus, said Snoble.

Ridership, initially estimated to approach 7,000 on weekdays, soared to over 10,000 on Monday, and climbed past 11,000 on Tuesday and Wednesday. On site reports from Thursday morning show the Orange Line is maintaining high ridership numbers. At this time, said Hunt, Wednesday's accidents have had no reported impact on ridership.