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## 'TRAIN' Warning Signs Now Installed at 59 Long Beach Intersections

- Approaching Metro Blue Line trains activate the new signs

By RICK JAGER

(April 20, 2006) Metro has completed installation of new L.E.D. "TRAIN" signs at all 59 left-turn lanes in the Metro Blue Line corridor on Long Beach Boulevard and Pacific Avenue in Long Beach.

The new L.E.D. "TRAIN" signs are activated each time a train approaches an intersection, warning motorists waiting to make a left turn that a train is approaching the intersection.

The goal of the \$500,000 safety program is to help prevent left-turn accidents in the street-running portion of the Blue Line.

"This is fantastic news for motorists in the Long Beach area as they navigate the streets of Long Beach where the Metro Blue Line operates," said Long Beach City Councilwoman and Metro Board Member Bonnie Lowenthal. "Anything we can do to improve the safety of the Metro Blue Line is welcome and it is hoped that these new "TRAIN" signs will do the trick in warning motorists that a train is approaching the intersection."

### Lunar bar signals

In addition to installing the new "TRAIN" signs, Metro also has replaced and relocated the "T" train signals with lunar bar indications that Blue Line train operators use to navigate their trains through the intersection.

"We have had great success with a similar program in downtown Los Angeles, having reduced left-turn accidents by 71 percent over the past six years," said Metro Rail General Manager Gerald Francis. "Our goal is to have no accidents at all, but we need driver cooperation



and, hopefully, these new train indicator lights will warn motorists that a train is approaching.”

To date, a total of 39 “TRAIN” signs have been installed in the downtown Los Angeles area.

Over the last few years, Metro’s Corporate Safety staff has been implementing the Rail Safety Improvement Program. The program, under the leadership of Abdul Zohbi, Metro’s Systems Safety manager, was initiated to mitigate all types of hazards and reduce, if not eliminate, rail incidents.

**Other safety equipment**

The new Long Beach signs complement other Metro Blue Line safety equipment additions that include the installation at various crossings of swing gates, pedestrian gates, four quadrant gates, median islands and additional warning lights, including fiber optic signs designed to warn pedestrians that a second train is coming through the intersection.

Nearly 50 percent of all train vs. vehicle accidents are the result of illegal left turns on the “street running” segments of the Blue Line alignment in Los Angeles and Long Beach where trains operate on city streets, as opposed to the exclusive right-of-way in the mid segment of the alignment.

In addition, Metro continues to engage in an aggressive community outreach program aimed at reducing the number of accidents.

The program includes safety presentations by Metro Community outreach staff at fairs, schools, housing association and community group meetings, as well as door-to-door contact with residents along the alignment.