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**TSB, Metro Security Conduct ‘100 Percent Fare Check Operation’**

By JIMMY STROUP

(Aug. 22, 2007) In a cooperative effort, Sheriff’s Transit Services Bureau (TSB) deputies and Metro Security officers teamed up to catch fare evaders on the Red Line, Aug. 15. The results showed a 1 percent evasion rate consistent with previous findings.

Of 5,860 passengers entering at the North Hollywood Red Line Station, nine citations were issued. Of 3,489 departing passengers, 45 citations were issued. The operation also nabbed a passenger who had an outstanding narcotics warrant. In all, 23 deputies and officers handled enforcement on the operation.

“The people coming in could see that we were there, so they had the option to buy the ticket,” said TSB Captain Pat Jordan. “But the people coming off the train were unaware of our presence, so the fare evasion rate on those passengers seems in keeping with what we’ve found before.”

The “100 Percent Fare Check Operation” was part of an ongoing study Metro is conducting regarding the most efficient way to deal with fare evasion. Jack Eckles, DEO System Safety & Security, said the operation was effective, but that the labor required to concentrate a presence at one station was costly.

“It’s labor-intensive to do this type of enforcement at more than one station at a time,” Eckles said. “On average, we catch between 1 and 3 percent of people evading, so this was just as effective as the measures we’ve attempted previously.”

Results from this operation will be presented to the Metro Board in the near future to help it decide what actions would best reduce fare evasion.