



NEWS

May 13, 1996

CONTACT: STEVE CHESSER/JIM SMART
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2718, 922-2700

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**METRO GREEN, BLUE AND RED LINES TO PARTICIPATE IN OPERATION
LIFESAVER BORDER TO BORDER TRAIN**

The Metro Green, Blue, and Red Lines will be part of a rail relay from San Ysidro to Oregon on Monday, May 13, as Operation Lifesaver runs a special Border to Border Train to promote rail safety.

The Border to Border Train runs from May 13-17, and is part of Operation Lifesaver Week. It is an annual event sponsored by Operation Lifesaver, a nationwide, nonprofit public information program dedicated to reducing collisions at rail grade crossings. The MTA has participated in Operation Lifesaver Week since 1994.

"Rail safety, especially at grade crossings, is a very high priority for the MTA," said Larry Zarian, MTA Chairman. "Operation Lifesaver is an outstanding public education program, and we're pleased to be participating again this year."

This year's event begins on the San Diego Trolley in San Ysidro. Operators will carry the "Lantern of Safety" which will be handed off along the route to the Coaster commuter train from San Diego and the Metrolink from Oceanside to the Metro Green Line at Norwalk.

The rail relay will move to the Metro Blue Line at the Wilmington/Imperial Station and then on to the Metro Red Line in downtown Los Angeles at the 7th and Metro Station. The day's activities, and MTA's participation, will end at the Red Line terminus at Union Station, where the relay moves to Amtrak.

(MORE)

OPERATION LIFESAVER, page 2

"The MTA has devoted considerable resources toward improving rail safety," said Joe Drew, MTA Chief Executive Officer. "Our photo enforcement program on the Metro Blue Line has significantly reduced grade crossing violations, a primary cause of train and auto collisions."

According to Operation Lifesaver, a vehicle and train collide in the United States every 90 minutes. A motorist is 30 times more likely to die in a crash with a train than in a collision with another vehicle, and over 50 percent of collisions occur where active warning devices, such as gates, lights or bells, exist.

Operation Lifesaver was founded in 1972, and is active in 49 states and Canada.

###