



# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MTA'S METRO RAIL SAFETY PROGRAM GOES HIGH-TECH WITH PURCHASE OF MULTIMEDIA MOBILE THEATER**

Reaffirming its commitment to public safety, the MTA Board of Directors today authorized the purchase of a high-tech multimedia mobile theater to better facilitate MTA's ongoing Metro Rail community safety education program.

"People who live or work along the Metro Blue and Gold Lines will be able to experience the speed, weight and impact of a moving train, all within the confines of a multimedia mobile theater," said L.A. County Supervisor and MTA Board Member Gloria Molina. "This one-of-a-kind mobile unit will greatly enhance MTA's rail safety education program."

MTA's Community Relations department will deploy the mobile theater in early 2003 at community events, shopping centers, schools, churches and other venues. The unit will first be used to educate residents living and working near the Los Angeles to Pasadena Metro Gold Line, currently under construction, which is planned to open in mid-2003.

The multimedia mobile unit is built into an expandable semi-trailer and has interactive production technology in a theater setting. Fitted with moveable seats, it permits realistic three-dimensional presentations that can simulate a train's speed and movement, braking and even an emergency stop.

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"This experience can make a lasting impression on participants while emphasizing safe behavior near operating trains," said Lynda Bybee, MTA's deputy executive officer for community relations. "The mobile safety theater will deliver a physical and visual impact that will have a lasting imprint on how to live safely with our at-grade light rail systems."

The multimedia mobile theater has previously toured the United States as an entertainment studio promotion vehicle. MTA plans to refurbish the semi-trailer for MTA's rail safety education program. The cost of the used vehicle is \$400,340.

An American Public Transportation Association (APTA) peer review group has recognized MTA's rail safety education and outreach program as "exemplary".

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