



Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**Metro**

**News**

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### Passenger Safety Improving on Metro

## **CRIME DOWN ON L.A. METRO SYSTEM OVER PAST FIVE YEARS**

Crime on L.A. County's Metro Bus and Rail system has decreased 17 percent over the last five years, according to new crime figures released by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Between 2015 and 2019, total Part 1 and Part 2 crimes, known respectively as "serious" and "less serious" crimes, have both fallen on the Metro system. Part 1 crimes have decreased nearly 23 percent and Part 2 crimes have decreased nearly 11 percent. Crime reductions have been observed in all major crime categories, including crimes against persons, crimes against properties and crimes against society. Statistics are reported to Metro regularly by multiple law enforcement partners now patrolling the transit system, including the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Long Beach Police Departments.

Overall, there are approximately 3.9 crimes per million transit rides, a relatively low number that is consistent with that of other major transit agencies across the United States and the rate of crime associated with many local municipalities.

The multi-year trend identified in the crime data reveals a steady but significant drop in total crimes due primarily to Metro's intense focus on improving safety and security for its customers and employees. The agency has implemented several important safety and security initiatives in recent years to improve the customer experience, retain current transit riders and attract new riders to the system.

"The Metro system is safe, and we're making it safer," said city of Inglewood Mayor and Metro Board Chair James T. Butts. "As a former law enforcement officer myself, I know that deterring crime takes a long-term commitment and focus. That's what Metro is now doing. I applaud the agency for putting its customers' safety first."

Metro instituted a new, multi-agency policing plan in mid-2017. The plan employs a combination of a law enforcement agencies, Metro transit security, private security and in-house fare compliance officers to better protect the Metro system. Since this new plan was implemented, Metro has substantially increased the “felt presence” of law enforcement on the system, which serves as a proven method of deterrence. Metro has also shortened law enforcement response times to reported incidents to about five minutes. The agency has also deployed “surge” operations as needed targeting specific crime trends and suspicious activity inside Metro stations.

“Our transit system is certainly not immune from some of the issues found in the rest of L.A. County, but we are now beginning to see the tangible benefits of our multi-agency law enforcement model,” said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. “A single crime on our system is one too many, but we are clearly moving in the right direction. We will remain committed to working toward a future where all of our riders and employee can travel safely on our system 100 percent of the time.”

On the security front, Metro continues to build a very robust and collaborative and intelligence-led training and exercise program with multiple stakeholders to train and prevent, mitigate and prepare for hazards in the transit environment. As a complement to law enforcement presence, this advance training methodology allows Metro to increase its ability to deter, detect, delay and deny significant threats. As a result, Metro’s resiliency and strategies for effective response and recovery have increased and undergird the agency’s successful reductions in crime.

Metro has regularly deployed its new Thruvision explosive detection system randomly throughout the system to augment its counter-terrorism measures. Riders can also anonymously report safety and security concerns with their smart phones using Metro’s Transit Watch app available on both iPhone and Android devices.

For more information about Metro’s safety and security efforts, please visit <https://www.metro.net/riding/safety-security/>.

### **About Metro**

Metro is the lead transportation planning and funding agency for L.A. County and carries about 1.2 million boardings daily on a fleet of 2,200 low-emission buses and six rail lines. Stay informed by following Metro on The Source and El Pasajero at [metro.net](http://metro.net), [facebook.com/losangelesmetro](https://www.facebook.com/losangelesmetro), [twitter.com/metrolosangeles](https://twitter.com/metrolosangeles) and [twitter.com/metroLAalerts](https://twitter.com/metroLAalerts) and [instagram.com/metrolosangeles](https://www.instagram.com/metrolosangeles).