

**Motion by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Director Richard Katz  
Commuter Rail Safety & Positive Train Control  
Regular Board Meeting  
September 25, 2008**

At 4:23p.m., on September 12, 2008 a Metrolink commuter train and a Union Pacific locomotive collided head-on in Chatsworth, California. The crash resulted at least 26 fatalities and over 135 people were injured, 40 of them critically. From this tragedy, we must do everything we can to improve the safety of our commuter rail system, which is so vital to providing commuters with an alternative to driving.

While the cause of the accident is still undetermined, we have enough evidence to believe that there was probably some level of human error involved. Even if there was no human error, we still must implement as many safeguards as possible and redundant layers of safety on our commuter rail network.

Positive train control (PTC) systems prevent train collisions and over-speed accidents by using global positioning systems (GPS) and automatic control systems to override mistakes made by human operators. The PTC system is particularly important in places where passenger trains and freight trains share the same track.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) estimates that implementing PTC on 100,000 miles of rail nationwide will cost \$2.3 billion, which is an average of \$23,000 per mile. The Los Angeles County portion of the Metrolink service area includes 185.8 route miles, so PTC may cost about \$4.3 million to implement in alone if NTSB figures are correct.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT the MTA Board of Directors:**

1. Urge Congress to “grandfather” the victims and families of the September 12, 2008 Metrolink-Union Pacific accident in Chatsworth in any federal legislation that would provide federal assistance for families of passengers involved in rail passenger accidents
2. Adopt “SUPPORT” positions on the following federal legislation that would implement positive train control and other collision avoidance systems on commuter rail lines and create federal assistance for families of passengers involved in rail passenger accidents:
  - A. S. 3493 (Feinstein/Boxer)
  - B. H.R. 2095 (Oberstar)

C. S. 1189 (Launtenberg)

3. Authorize the CEO to work with the Congressional authors to amend the respective bills to meet the policy and safety goals of this motion
  
4. Direct the CEO to immediately identify and program \$5 million for implementation of positive train control systems (or other effective collision avoidance systems) on the commuter rail system in the County of Los Angeles and to report back in October with cost estimates and any additional programming required to implement these positive train control systems
  
5. Direct the CEO to work with Metrolink's other funding partners to secure identify and program funding for implementation of positive train control systems (or other effective collision avoidance systems) on the commuter rail system in the non-Los Angeles portions of Metrolink's service area

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