



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

News

April x, 2019

Dave Sotero/Joni Goheen
Metro Media Relations
213.922.3007/213.922.2700
metro.net/press/pressroom
mediarelations@metro.net
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro Increases Security Patrols on Rail Lines to Augment Safety for Metro Riders

In efforts to enhance safety and build trust for its transit customers, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is working with its law enforcement agency partners to increase security patrols on the Metro System.

Additional law enforcement personnel will be made available on the Metro Red/Purple Line, where the agency has observed a recent uptick in reported incidents. Metro will also step up patrols on Expo Line and Green Line to address similar concerns.

These operations are referred to in the law enforcement arena as “surges,” which are focused, strategic deployments of police resources to address specific problem areas.

Officers will also help Metro enforce its Customer Code of Conduct, which provides rules for ensuring all transit riders behave in a mutually respectful and courteous manner. Areas law enforcement will be focusing on will be fare compliance, taking up more than one seat, and

“Metro is working diligently to enhance safety and build public trust,” said L.A. County Supervisor and Metro Board Chair Sheila Kuehl.

\$15 million to hire 20 new LAPD officers.

engaged the county's homeless population in a new dynamic way this week, deploying outreach teams on the Metro System to offer services and housing information.

These outreach teams are part of a new Metro Homeless Task Force, with "County-City-Community" (C3) teams consisting of nurses, substance abuse counselors, mental health clinicians, former homeless individuals and other outreach workers seeking to help homeless individuals now sheltering within Metro's Stations, trains and buses. Team participants include Metro, Department of Mental Health, L.A. Homeless Services Authority, and L.A. County Sheriff's Department.

Late last year the Metro Board of Directors approved \$1.2 million for the deployment of multidisciplinary homeless outreach teams expressly on the Metro system. The program will be coordinated closely with the Countywide Homeless Strategy Initiative, a broader county program to help address the region's growing homeless crisis. According to most recent figures, there are now approximately 58,000 homeless individuals in L.A. County.

"Metro is glad to help address the dire homeless situation that tragically affects so many people," said John Fasana, Metro Board Chair and city of Duarte Mayor Pro-Tem. "We are more than willing to do our part to ensure homeless individuals receive the services they may need while ensuring that we can continue to operate a safe and quality environment for all our transit customers."

This week, Metro's C3 outreach team made contact with 172 homeless individuals on the Metro Red Line. Approximately five applications were completed, seven individuals were transported to local housing, six individuals were provided with clothing vouchers, and four tokens were distributed for follow-up appointments.

Teams will continue to ride the Metro Red, Gold and Green Lines between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., five days per week. Times coincide with the operating hours of local homeless service providers. Additionally, Metro's transit security officers working graveyard shifts will also help guide deployment of C3 teams each day. The next team is scheduled to ride these lines on June 5.

The task force will participate in a 12-month deployment period that will contribute to a pilot case study evaluating homeless outreach needs on the Metro system. Metro plans to contribute its findings to other city and county agencies to develop their own strategies and funding mechanisms to address homelessness.

"Homelessness is a pervasive problem, one it affects the four corners of Los Angeles County," said Mark Ridley-Thomas, Metro Board Member and L.A. County Supervisor. "We must act in a

collective but caring manner to connect our homeless brothers and sisters to badly needed services and resources that we can offer.”

Earlier this year, Metro created a strategic plan to address homelessness on the Metro system. The plan solidifies a coordinated homeless outreach service approach aimed at reducing the incidence of homelessness in and around Metro’s transit stations and corridors. The plan is focused on creating a culture of service when encountering and engaging homeless persons to offer support services.

For more information about this program, please visit <http://metro.net/riding/homeless-task-force/>.

About Metro

Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that is really three companies in one: a major operator that transports about 1.4 million boarding passengers on an average weekday on a fleet of 2,200 clean air buses and six rail lines, a major construction agency that oversees many bus, rail, highway and other mobility related building projects, and the lead transportation planning and programming agency for Los Angeles County. Overseeing one of the largest public works programs in America, Metro is changing the urban landscape of the Los Angeles region. Dozens of transit, highway and other mobility projects largely funded by Measure R are under construction or in the planning stages. These include five new rail lines, enhanced bus operations, and numerous highway and local projects.

Stay informed by following Metro on The Source and El Pasajero at metro.net, [facebook.com/losangelesmetro](https://www.facebook.com/losangelesmetro), twitter.com/metrolosangeles and twitter.com/metroLAalerts and [instagram.com/metrolosangeles](https://www.instagram.com/metrolosangeles).

(Metro-123)

###