

**MTA Board Meeting
July 26, 2012**

Motion by Director Yaroslavsky

The Metro Blue Line opened in July of 1990. For the first 12 years of its operation, the line averaged 50.9 accidents per year. That rate dropped significantly over the past 10 years, to 27.9 accidents per year. Moreover, the last four years, 2008 through 2011, account for 4 of the 5 lowest accident totals in the line's history.

However, things have changed this past year. Tragically, the Blue Line is on pace to have more fatalities in 2012 than in any other year. If numbers generated in the first half of the year are any indication, by year's end there could be more fatalities and twice as many suicides than any other year in the history of the rail line. Suicides alone account for a major portion of the increase in overall accidents.

To ensure public safety and prevent further loss of life, MTA should examine possible causes for the spike in accidents and fatalities on the Blue Line and propose preventative and corrective actions to ensure this increase in incidents does not become a long term trend.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board directs the CEO to convene a Metro Blue Line Task Force with staff and safety/rail experts to investigate and report back on:

- 1) Causes for accidents along the Blue Line, including but not limited to adequacy of current safety procedures, operational concerns, structural concerns, signage, and traffic conditions;
- 2) Potential suicide prevention strategies
- 3) Solutions to the issues that are identified as well as plans for implementing those solutions;

I FURTHER MOVE that the Metro Blue Line Task Force report back to the Systems Safety and Operations Committee and the MTA Board in November 2012.