Introducing Metro Transit Tribune

WELCOME TO the first edition of the Metro Transit Tribune, a quarterly newsletter intended to keep you informed about developments and updates within Metro’s Transit Safety Programs (TSP). TSP is community based transit safety education. Our goal is to increase safe ridership through informative and site specific safety programs.

The Beginnings of Transit Safety Programs

Operation Lifesaver began as a public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities, and injuries at highway-rail crossings and trespassing on or near railroad tracks. Operation Lifesaver’s focus on heavy rail prompted Metro to create its own transit education curriculum; Transit Education Programs was created in 2002. The department of three began working with schools, recreation centers, and libraries in close proximity to the Metro Blue Line.

Transit Safety Programs (formerly known as Transit Education Programs) has since evolved and now provides safety presentations to schools within a 1.5 mile radius of Metro’s street running light rail lines (Gold Line, Expo Line, and Blue Line), safety orientation tours, an online curriculum, field trips, the On the Move Riders Club, re-entry programs, school based youth diversion program, Rail Safety Ambassadors, resource tables at community events, and orientation workshops. The now expanded department of 15 works throughout Los Angeles County urging residents to be safe around the Metro system to ultimately create a culture of safety.

Safety Tip:
For the safety of all passengers, please allow passengers to exit before boarding!
RAIL SAFETY Ambassadors are retired transit operators with a minimum of 23 years of operations experience. Rail Safety Ambassadors serve as Metro’s grassroots safety education team. Ambassadors monitor and report unsafe behavior by pedestrians and vehicles around grade crossings along Metro’s street running light rail alignments, distribute safety materials, and explain safe practices when they observe people performing unsafe acts.

WE HAD the opportunity to speak to Claudio Vidana. Claudio is in his fourth year of being a Rail Safety Ambassador. Currently, he is stationed at the Grand station along the Blue Line. Claudio was originally a Metro bus operator for 24 years, driving all around Los Angeles County. As a bus operator, he enjoyed driving multiple routes and getting familiar with the wide array of diverse communities that make up LA County. His favorite part of being a rail safety ambassador includes helping people. He has the opportunity to engage the public and help them be safe around Metro trains. Since Claudio is bilingual in Spanish, he has had the ability to help Spanish speakers use the Metro to get to where they are going. He enjoys being a resource to people in his community.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How do light rail trains move?

METRO LIGHT rail trains are powered by electricity! Street running trains like the Gold Line, Expo Line, Blue Line and the Green Line get their power from the wired overhead catenary system. Alternatively, our subway trains (also powered by electricity) get their power from the third rail, the one located closest to the wall.

What happens during an earthquake?

DURING AN earthquake, Metro trains may be subject to a decrease in speed and change of schedule. Metro Subway trains and tunnels are designed and built to meet strict seismic codes.

TSP’s On the Move Riders Club at Metro’s Local Service Councils

This quarter, TSP’s On the Move Riders Club presented to Metro’s Service Councils. Metro’s Service Councils advise on Metro services in five geographic regions: Gateway Cities, San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, South Bay, and Westside/Central. TSP will update councilmembers on the progress of outreach efforts to the older adult population throughout Los Angeles County. The program last presented at the Service Councils in 2013. In addition, the presentation will include an update on Metro’s Mobile Customer Center’s efforts to intake seniors for their Reduced Fare TAP cards.

Stay Connected:

Website: Metro.net/about/transit-safety
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Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/transitsafetyprograms