Street Safety Features and Enhancements

PARK MESA HEIGHTS AT-GRADE SEGMENT

SPRING 2016

Metro.net/crenshaw

Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project
The Metro Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project will create a new light-rail line that will extend from the existing Metro Expo Line at Crenshaw and Exposition Boulevards. The line will travel 8.5 miles to the Metro Green Line and will serve the cities of Los Angeles, Inglewood and El Segundo; and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County.

A portion of the line will run at-grade — or street level — along Crenshaw BL between 48th St and 59th St in the Park Mesa Heights and Hyde Park communities of Los Angeles. In addition to streetscape and infrastructure improvements included as part of the project, a number of rail safety enhancements are included as part of the rail line.

These improvements have been coordinated with and thoroughly reviewed by the California Public Utilities Commission, City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and the Metro Rail Safety Team. There are numerous locations along Crenshaw BL where there have been accidents between cars and bicycles, as well as between cars and pedestrians. Some of the safety features installed for the rail line will also serve as safety features for bicyclists and pedestrians. Metro is committed to constructing and operating transit rail lines that improve mobility, promotes linkages among communities throughout the region and maintains high level of safety for public.

The Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project will incorporate many rail and street features that adhere to the highest safety standards. Metro has coordinated with federal, state, regional and local public agencies to develop comprehensive safety enhancements based on field and area assessments, safety compliance measures and stakeholder and public discussions.

Rail Line Safety Enhancements for “Street Running” Light Rail

> Fenced and median separation between rail line and street traffic between intersections
> Trains are synchronized with regular/normal flow of traffic
> Trains will cross intersections only when traffic signals at street crossings are green, which also allow cars to cross the intersection parallel to the trains
> Flashing lights on all incoming and approaching trains
> Highly trained rail operators controlling transit lines, with the ability to honk (more focused warning), stop train car, and more focused defensive operations for all operators

Street Safety Enhancements

> Crosswalks will incorporate the Continental style, which makes pedestrians more visible to drivers when crossing the street. Continental crosswalks have been shown to reduce accidents between cars and pedestrians when compared to conventional crosswalks.
> Reconfiguring sidewalks requires street lighting design at current standards, which includes lighting for the road and sidewalks
> Sidewalk bulb-outs will be constructed where feasible, which will decrease the walking distance across Crenshaw BL
> Dedicated left turn controlled signals at for cars at intersections along Crenshaw BL
> Pedestrian signals with countdown timers at crosswalks
> Slauson Av widening
  – Dual left turn lanes from Slauson
  – Eastbound through lane on Slauson
  – Right turn only lane on westbound Slauson
> Delineators at Slauson Av. and 59th St., where pedestrians will cross the street to access the Hyde Park Station.

Metro Transit Safety Program

The main objective of the Transit Safety Program (TSP) is to provide information and site specific safety programs to the community to aid in safer ridership. The program gives safety presentations at all schools within a 1.5 mile radius of all street-running Metro light-rail lines (Blue Expo and Gold) and bus corridors. Presentations are accompanied by rail orientation tours at the request of the school.

In addition, TSP also presents its safety presentations to senior centers, recreation centers, neighborhood councils, home owners associations, faith-based centers and summer camps. For larger community events, TSP has a safety resource table with general Metro information, site specific information and a prize wheel for those who answer a safety question. The key messages TSP focus on are the following:

> Look both ways/watch for trains in both directions
> Watch for the second train
> Never walk on train tracks
> Never go around lowered crossing gates
> Look and Listen for the train
> Obey all warning signals
> Never run to catch the train

The program includes the following components:

> Site Specific Safety Presentations – reviewing grade crossings, platform safety, rider etiquette and code of conduct
> Rail Safety Ambassadors Program – Metro trained staff monitors the rail line stations and provides safety related information to rail passengers and members of the public.
> Teaching Network – videos and CD’s provided to 12 school districts in Los Angeles County.
> Social Media – safety information provided on Nextdoor, Instagram and Facebook to communities along the Metro Rail corridor.
> Local News Media (online/print) – safety messages placed in local newspapers

The safety education program received first place recognition in from APTA in 2003.