

Executive Summary  
Transit Services Bureau  
Safe Schools Program  
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## **Mission**

The mission of the LASD Transit Services Bureau's (TSB) Safe School Commuter Program (SSCP) is to provide safe passage for students commuting to and from schools throughout the County of Los Angeles via the Metro transit system.

## **History**

The SSCP began at TSB following complaints about student safety during commutes to and from school on the Metro transit system from parents at the California School for the Arts in Duarte, CA. The SSCP is a scalable, education and community-based high-visibility program formed by TSB. The program was started in the Spring of 2022 at TSB and is in place as long as schools are in session. It was successfully used in the Pasadena to Duarte area for over a year and TSB is now beginning the early stages of planning for other communities due to its success and positive feedback. Efforts made by TSB's specialized units have been well-received by students, parents, schools, and community members.

## **Deployment**

The SSCP is centered around the community-based policing model of assigned area patrol units having responsibility for the safety of children commuting within TSB patrol areas and does not require altering existing schedules. No units are directed out of the area, thus avoiding the need to redeploy personnel. The primary responsibility falls on the Community Enhancement Team (CET) with support from field units, the Special Assignment Unit (SAU), and the Transit Mental Evaluation Team (TMET).

### Mission Steps

- Identify the area targeted for student commuting and the hours of commute to and from the identified schools. Usually, it is an hour in the morning (i.e., 0730-0830) and an hour in the afternoon (i.e., 1500-1600).
- Area patrol units that are already assigned to the targeted areas of the rail system are assigned to fixed posts to enhance the visibility of deputy personnel and train boarding. CET Deputies are already assigned to ride the trains with students and are visible in the impacted area during the indicated hours.
- SAU Deputies are tasked with the initial start-up at the beginning of the school year or to a newly selected school area to increase visibility and interaction with student riders. After riding during the initial start-up of the school year for an identified school, SAU Deputies leave the responsibility to cover the commute to the assigned area patrol units. SAU Deputies will reach out to schools and offer narcotics awareness (i.e., the dangers of

fentanyl), a rail safety component identifying the dangers of grade crossings, enhancing platform safety, methods of contacting Law Enforcement for help, and providing feedback for modifications if needed to the targeted area.

- TMET Deputies are also assigned to impacted areas to enhance opportunities to conduct outreach to persons in need of services and persons experiencing homelessness.

## **Benefits**

Some of the positive results from the use of the SSCP:

- Crime deterrence and prevention, and added visibility on the Metro transit system to support Metro's multi-layered safety and security ecosystem
- Engagement and awareness of rail and bus safety within Metro communities
- Open communication with TSB personnel regarding system safety and improvements
- Development of closer ties with our ridership, community partners, and school staff
- Promotes better communication with students and other riders, parents, and school staff regarding any potential changes in safety and quality of life concerns
- Provides a platform for feedback on safety concerns such as station cleanliness, station lighting, persons in need of outreach or medical services, etc.
- Provides a platform for determining community needs and development of a viable, interactive education to increase safety, security, and quality of life on the Metro transit system

TSB accomplishes the SSCP without the use of overtime and without having to redeploy units assigned to other sectors. At TSB, the goal is to avoid any threats or acts of violence and abuse *before* they happen through visibility and education.