



COMMUNITY POLICING PLAN FY 2024

JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
TRANSIT SERVICES BUREAU

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MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

Dear Transit Community,

It is my pleasure to present to you the Transit Services Bureau 2024 Community Policing Plan. This document details the multi-layered services that Transit Services Bureau provides to Metro. Every member of Transit Services Bureau focuses on transit policing from a community-based perspective, and it remains our core mission. As the only full-time staffed and dedicated transit policing agency in Los Angeles County, our bureau consists of over 330

professionals of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department who have dedicated themselves to serving the patrons and staff of the Los Angeles County Metro System.

Transit Services Bureau proudly provides community safety services to 95 cities and four counties throughout the Metro service area from desert to mountain, metropolis to ocean. This includes all buses, trains, and Metro property outside of the City of Los Angeles and covers 978 sq miles of Metro's 1,447 sq miles of bus service, 90 miles of rail, and 60 Metro stations.

This considerable geographical area and unique transit environment is policed using dedicated transit-trained patrol deputies and a variety of specialized teams to enhance the Metro rider experience and provide the highest level of service, safety, and security to Metro patrons and employees. It is the collective vision of the leadership and staff of Transit Services Bureau to ensure a friendly and supportive community safety experience. I am exceptionally proud to be a part of the legacy of service to Metro since 1990 and I am looking forward to the many years of partnership ahead.

Respectfully,

Captain Shawn R. Kehoe
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Transit Services Bureau



LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) is responsible for 4,048 square miles and provides law enforcement services to over 10 million county residents. LASD provides general law enforcement and security-related services to 42 contract cities, 140 unincorporated communities, 38 superior courts, ten community colleges, county parks, public transportation including the Los Angeles County Metro Authority (LACMA), Metrolink, and Foothill Transit, and our nation's largest custody system. LASD employs nearly 18,000 sworn and professional staff. LASD is a multi-layered and diverse law enforcement organization that includes peace officers who come from all walks of life including those who were born and raised in the communities we serve, those who have served or are currently serving in our nation's military, and those are from both out of state and out of country. Due to the geographical size of the county and locations that we already cover, LASD is more than capable of continuing to serve in its existing capacity as well as increasing service as Metro continues to expand its operations.

TRANSIT SERVICES BUREAU

LASD Transit Services Bureau (TSB) is comprised of 330 sworn and professional staff members who are specifically trained to meet the needs of transit policing on Metro trains and buses in an ever-changing public transportation landscape. TSB approaches the Metro mission with a multi-layered system of patrol deputies and support teams consisting of Transit Mental Evaluation (TMEI) Teams, K9, a Special Assignment Unit (SAU), Team Leaders, and our own Detective Bureau. Our executive leadership, supervisors, and deputies are dedicated to serving Metro, its patrons, and the communities that are inherently tied to the Metro system.

Currently, TSB personnel deploy out of the Rail Operations Center (ROC), Downey Substation, El Monte Substation, and Irwindale Substation. TSB deputies are assigned to these geographical areas based on the train and bus lines they patrol. The strategic deployment model currently in use at TSB allows our deputies to have shorter response times and creates a more visible law enforcement presence, which deters crime and enables Metro employees and patrons alike to know they are safe when riding Metro trains and buses. TSB will continue to make every effort to reduce crime, reduce response times, leverage existing and emerging technology to aid LASD's operation, participate in joint training exercises with transit partners, and ensuring the highest degree of professionalism and cultural alignment with Metro's vision. The safety and security of Metro bus and train operators and patrons is our priority.



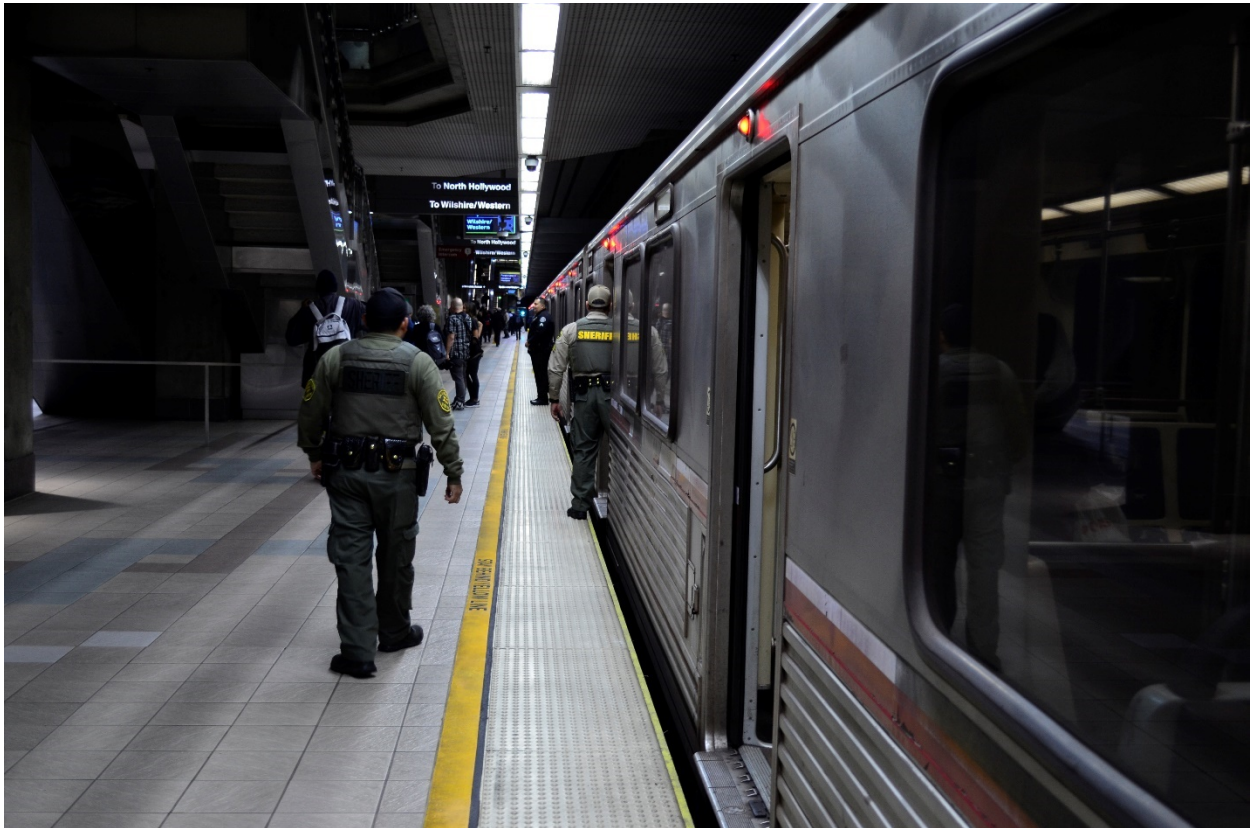
PATROL OPERATIONS



TSB has two distinct patrol missions for both of Metro's public transportation modes. Deputies who patrol bus lines conduct patrol checks of bus layovers, parking lots, and bus routes, conduct bus boardings, and contact Metro bus operators and patrons. Deputies who patrol rail lines conduct patrol checks of platforms, parking lots, and trains, conduct train boardings and rides, and contact Metro train operators and patrons. TSB Patrol Deputies conduct operator contacts to ensure the safety and security of Metro employees and patrons, respond to calls for service involving Metro buses and trains, offer outreach services as needed, make arrests when other options are not viable, and foster relationships with Metro employees, patrons, and the communities bus routes and rail lines are established in. TSB Patrol Deputies frequently conduct training to respond to dynamic calls for service specifically involving trains, buses, and Metro platforms to prevent catastrophic events from occurring on the Metro system. TSB's goal is to increase deputy visibility on platforms, at layovers, and on trains and buses by 27% over the next year.

COMMUTER ENHANCEMENT TEAM

TSB's Commuter Enhancement Team (CET) consists of sixteen deputies and one sergeant. The purpose of the CET is to provide additional deputies to maintain high visibility on Metro's platforms and trains that are in or travel within LASD's jurisdiction. The CET is TSB's premier train-riding team which consists of seasoned and experienced deputies who are knowledgeable on Metro's extensive and intricate system. While riding aboard Metro's trains, CET Deputies engage Metro patrons and operators to ensure their concerns are heard and addressed and create an environment where patrons and operators feel safe. CET Deputies also use additional resources to help Metro patrons when outreach is needed and make arrests when required. TSB's goal for the CET over the next year is to increase training specific to encountering mental health crises, identifying specific or emerging issues such as fare evasion or drug use and increasing saturation operations, and increasing visibility through strategic deployment along Metro's Blue and Green Lines.



SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT UNIT

The Special Assignment Unit (SAU) is TSB's highly trained, specialized unit consisting of sixteen deputies and two sergeants. The SAU has been able to address a myriad of issues such as general deployments for Operation Safe Travel, where SAU deputies saturated the rail system to combat quality of life issues, to specific deployments for Operation No Dope, where the team targeted drug sales, possession, and usage on the Metro system.

Ongoing efforts for protecting the youth connected to Metro are carried out through the Safe Schools Commuter Program. Student outreach at the local schools and undercover operations gives the SAU extra time to promote safety against violent crime and drug use. The SAU will continue educating the public on the dangers of Fentanyl at schools and at Metro stations; the SAU team effect boots-on-the-ground deployments to address core issues plaguing the Metro rail and bus lines.

Looking ahead, the SAU will shift focus to improve upon existing capabilities with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) incidents, which will be accomplished by in-service training, consultations with SEB Hazmat and RAD (Radiation Detection) Management, and FEMA-organized classes at institutes across the country. Training abilities are integral to the SAU so that team members can maintain their expertise in mass transit-specific issues and contain potential hazards across all bus and rail areas on the Metro system.



TRANSIT MENTAL EVALUATION TEAM



The Transit Services Bureau Mental Evaluation Team (TMET) is comprised of nine Bonus-1 deputies and one on-loan deputy sheriff who train extensively to respond to crises including mental health issues or homelessness. In addition to sworn staff members, TMET also has Department of Mental Health (DMH) Clinicians assigned to the team. Currently, TMET has one permanently assigned clinician and one on-loan clinician. TMET responds to assist deputy personnel with calls for service in which a Metro patron is experiencing a crisis and assisting the homeless population affecting the Metro system by connecting them with outreach services or additional resources. A more prominent role lately for TMET has been to conduct outreach at encampments affecting Metro operations.

The goal of TMET going forward will be to increase the identification of possible problem areas and areas of concern by assigning specific areas to each deputy on the team. By assigning areas of responsibility, each deputy will take ownership and have a vested interest in being proactive.

TSB DETECTIVE BUREAU

TSB Detectives investigate criminal cases ranging from aggravated assaults and robberies to attempted murder. There are a total of ten deputies and one sergeant assigned to the TSB Detective Bureau. All detectives receive formal and informal training in various criminal investigations. The TSB Detective Bureau will undertake and continue to improve dynamic tactical entry training as required per our annual inspection. Entry training mitigates any officer safety issues during search location operations.

The TSB Detective Bureau will continue with the quarterly Detective Bureau loan rotation program, which exposes TSB patrol deputies to some of the issues associated with case filings. This experience will enhance their overall report writing capabilities and investigative skills, which creates a better-trained deputy in their investigation skills.

The TSB Detective Bureau is currently building collaborative working relationships with our law enforcement counterparts where Metro train and bus lines are present. The purpose of building such a relationship is to establish a liaison detective line of communication to effectively share any crime trends which directly impact more than one agency within the county. The TSB Detective Bureau is currently looking at alternatives to deter copper wire theft and related crimes by obtaining cameras and other tools to capture and arrest copper theft criminals.



TSB K9

The Transit Services Bureau K9 unit currently has ten Explosive Detection K9 teams consisting of nine deputies and one sergeant who are assigned to cover the various Metro bus and rail stations. K9 Teams at TSB are deployed along the Metro system seven days a week. While deployed, the K9 teams conduct proactive searches for explosives at Metro stations within the LASD jurisdiction as well as serving as general deterrent to any would-be terrorists or criminals. Most of the teams are deployed during the work week when ridership is at its highest. This type of deployment allows the K9 teams to have quicker response times to any unattended or suspicious packages or bomb threats that may occur along the Metro system.

Based on availability, TSB K9 Teams take part in awareness presentations at schools, community events, and job fairs throughout the county. The presentations often include the importance of being safe around Metro rail lines, highlighting the “See Something, Say Something” program, and the dedication needed to be in law enforcement, particularly as a K9 handler. All K9 teams attend an annual certification through the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) National Explosive Detection Canine Training program (NEDCTP). Each canine team is required to go through an intensive two-day re-certification to demonstrate they continue to meet TSA certification standards. These standards are some of the most stringent in the nation and include demonstrated performances in searching aircraft, luggage, terminals, trains, buses, cargo, and vehicles. These evaluations test the team's abilities to perform their day-to-day mission of protecting transportation systems for the traveling public.

TSB K9 teams will continue to work closely with our Arson Explosives Detail to stay current on trends in terrorism, explosive recognition, and credible threats. With COVID restrictions lifted, newer TSB K9 teams will be sent to take additional courses provided by the Center for Domestic Preparedness which encompass handling CBRNE threats in real time and threat assessment of suspicious items. These classes improve the knowledge and decision making of the K9 teams when handling suspicious/unattended items.



TSB TEAM LEADERS

The purpose of the TSB Team Leader is to serve as a liaison between LASD and Metro. The Team Leader provides guidance and direction to a team of deputies and professional staff in actively addressing areas of concern within the Metro System. The Team Leader Deputy helps target specific concerns within the Metro System, identifies resources to be utilized in solving those problems most effectively, develops and manages the implementation of plans, and evaluates the outcome solutions.

TSB currently has six Team Leaders with a combined service of 112 years of law enforcement experience. They cover the Metro A Line, C Line, E Line, K Line, A Line (Formerly L Line) North Bus sector, and South Bus sector. Team Leaders identify problems along their respective lines by gathering information from community and Metro employees, administrators, LASD deputies, and the media.

Several of the Team Leader responsibilities are, but are not limited to attending Metro briefing and events; meeting with Metro Division Managers; contacting supervisors and operators regarding issues on the rail system and assist them as needed; reviewing calls for service and incident reports; observing and documenting activities in specific Metro areas; gathering statistical information pertaining to MTA by consulting reports, databases, and/or TSB's Crime Analyst; researching the history of a problem by reviewing data, statistics, and reports to identify previously used resolution efforts and safety concerns; determining resources for operations by assessing the situation; develop operation plans and event action plans for large scale events that directly impact the Metro System, i.e., Super Bowl, Rose Parade and Rose Bowl, NFL games, Concerts, etc.; contacting outside resources and agencies prior to the start of an operation to confirm agency support and procure needed equipment; and receiving and completing CCATS & LESR reports.



Listed below are some of the current projects TSB Team Leaders are working on:

A-LINE EVENTS/PROJECTS: Continue to work with Metro in providing a safe and secure environment for employees and their patrons; monitor and attend events related to the Foothill Extension Project into Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, and Pomona; monitor Regional Connector unhoused uptick into Pasadena and Citrus/APU; arrange law enforcement based “Active Shooter” training for our Metro Security and Ambassador Partners; draft Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Event Action Plan (EAP); and continue to proactively prevent copper wire theft.

C LINE EVENTS/PROJECTS: Conduct high visibility operations to build on patrons and Metro employees’ confidence in LASD; conduct plain clothes operations to combat property crimes (i.e., copper theft) along the C-Line; continue our “Respect the Ride” program and growing the number of personnel and areas covered; liaison with Metro and the City of Inglewood during large scale events at SOFI Stadium; liaison between Metro, CHP, and Inglewood Police Department during the upcoming NFL football season for the LA Rams and LA Chargers; assist Metro by providing additional event security at the Hawthorne/Lennox Station Shuttle service to SOFI stadium during the upcoming NFL football season; coordinate law enforcement-based “Active Shooter” training for Metro Security, Ambassadors, LASD Members, and other Law Enforcement agencies with proximity to the C-Line; work with TMET deputies, CHP, Metro and C-Line deputies in the reduction in the number of homeless encampments along C-Line stations.

E LINE EVENTS/PROJECTS: Continue to work with MTA in providing a safe and secure environment for employees and their patrons. As of now the E Line does not have any events planned, however the City of Santa Monica regularly hosts events where patrons use the light rail system. Future training will include law enforcement-based “Active Shooter” training for our Metro Security and Ambassador Partners.

K LINE EVENTS/PROJECTS: Continue to work with MTA in providing a safe and secure environment for employees and their patrons. Events at Inglewood SOFI are constant. The newly opened K-Line will be used by patrons coming to Inglewood to enjoy events at SOFI. The construction of the K-Line connection to the C-Line is making progress, the estimated completion is a year and a half away. The LAX People Mover is nearing completion (same timetable) and will allow patrons to shuttle to LAX from the LAX/Metro Transit Center stop.

NORTH BUS EVENTS/PROJECTS: Continue to work with MTA in providing a safe and secure environment for employees and their patrons; continue assisting Metro with El Monte Terminal to ensure the patrons and operators are safe; address and combat any issue with homelessness using department resources such as TMET; continue working with Foothill Transit doing bus rides and conducting a fixed post

deployment at Pomona Transit Center, and incorporate law enforcement-based “Active Shooter” training for our Metro Security and Ambassador Partners.

SOUTH BUS EVENTS/PROJECTS: Continue our “Respect the Ride” program and growing the number of personnel and areas covered; implement a de-escalation training for our Metro bus operators to include providing them with the knowledge to identify potential challenging situations and additional verbal tools to help reduce operator assaults as well as law enforcement-based “Active Shooter” training for our Metro Security and Ambassador Partners; work with Metro System Security and Law Enforcement group on the development and implementation of new full sized operator barriers inside buses; and leveraging LASD current community policing model and incorporating the above-mentioned strategies, we can enhance public safety aboard our Metro buses and the entire rail system.

Moving forward, TSB Team Leaders will undoubtedly be tasked with unique projects. They are prepared for whatever is assigned to them.



OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROJECTS



TSB's Office of Special Projects (OSP) is comprised of one lieutenant, one sergeant, and one deputy, who is the Public Information Officer (PIO). The purpose of OSP is to communicate critical information to the public, Metro, news outlets, and LASD; attend relevant Metro and community board meetings; monitor and create social media posts across Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter; work alongside Metro's PIO; develop innovative community outreach and engagement events; document the history and efforts of TSB; engage and collaborate with local community leaders; and engage Metro patrons.

OSP intends on increasing TSB's social media presence to include photos and videos of events, training, Hooks of the Month, notable arrests, TSB staff, Metro staff, Metro patrons, and collaborative efforts with other law enforcement agencies. OSP also intends on hosting a "Coffee with the Sheriff" event in Santa Monica, a National Night Out event at the ROC, and a collaboration with local shelters to provide volunteer services on holidays. OSP will also increase public visibility by conducting additional "Coffee with a Cop" and pop-up events at Metro stations within LASD's jurisdiction.