



# Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

## Transit Policing Division

### Highlights and Accomplishments

#### Overview

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) is the largest Sheriff's Department in the United States and employs over 18,000 sworn and professional staff. The Department's countywide resources are vast and include, to name a few, the following: Major Crimes Bureau, Emergency Operations, Headquarters Detectives, Scientific Services, Patrol Divisions, Transportation, Courts and Custody Facilities, Community Oriented Policing Bureau, Aero Bureau (the Department's airborne fleet), Homicide Bureau, Fraud and Cyber Crimes, Arson/Explosives, Special Victims Bureau, Special Enforcement Bureau (SWAT Teams), Operations Safe Streets, and the Gang Enforcement Team. While Transit Policing Division (TPD) provides Countywide services and resides under the Sheriff's Department's larger umbrella, its nearly 650 sworn and professional staff serve as a dedicated resource and policing force for Metro.

#### Transit Policing Division Services and Support

Routine patrol and fixed-post assignment of deputies and security assistants stand at the core of TPD's daily deployment and span the commands of Transit Bureau North, Transit Bureau South, Central Operations, and Metrolink. Field personnel are supported through a diverse network of ancillary services, specific to Metro's needs and a Transit policing environment. Specialty services include the following:

- *Threat Interdiction Unit* - a premier and nationally recognized counterterrorism unit
- *Detective Bureau* - investigates and assists in the prosecution of transit specific crimes, as well as "photo enforcement" management
- *Crime Impact Teams* – address crime trends, quality-of-life issues, series offenders, surveillance, search warrant service, graffiti abatement, prosecution of prolific taggers and the like.
- *Bus Riding Team* - an innovative and newly created team that promotes law enforcement visibility, conducts plain clothes operations, and addresses crime trends specific to bus lines
- *Canine Teams* – system-wide explosives scent detection
- *Crisis Response Unit* – comprises teams of Mental Evaluation Deputies and Department of Mental Health Clinicians
- *Field Training Program* – established in 2012, this programs comprises 20 training officers who specialize in transit specific tactics, communication, and problem solving
- *Sheriff's Reserve and Volunteer Program* – 17 reserve deputies and 30 active volunteers
- *Service Area Lieutenants, Team Leaders, and Professional Staff* who support the Division's operation within each unit. In addition, LASD oversees the day-to-day management of Metro Security and Contract Security services, which total in the hundreds of personnel

**Transit Policing Division Snap-Shots and Statistics**

*Citations and Arrests (2012-2015)*

- Citations Issued 374,798
- Arrests made 32,357

*Bus Riding Team Boarding, Ride and Fare Check Data (September 2014 to Current)*

- Bus Boardings 11,081
- Bus Rides 5,406
- Fare Checks 476,010

*Crime Impact Team Statistics (August 31, 2014 to Current)*

- Citations 964
- Arrests 1,023
- Rides and Boardings 200
- Plain Clothes Ops., Reports, Parole/Probation Searches and Search Warrants 533

*Crisis Response Unit - Contacts, Transports, 5150 WIC, Cites, Trespass and Location Checks (2014 Totals)*

- Total Contacts 3,384
- Transports to Services 324
- 5150 (Person Determined Mentally Ill) 348
- Citations Issued 65
- Trespassing 550
- Location Checks 4,404

*Detective Bureau-Crime Statistics and Like Jurisdiction Comparisons (May 2014/May 2015)*

- TPD Cases Cleared By Arrest 81% Other Jurisdiction Comparison\* 53%
- TPD Solve Rate (All Crimes) 88.9% Other Jurisdiction Composite 78.7-86.2%
- Felony Complaints Filed (D.A.) 31.3% Other Jurisdiction Composite 18-25.3%
- Cases Rejected (City Atty./D.A.) 16.6% Other Jurisdiction Composite 22.2-25.2%

*TSOI "Bus Policing Pilot" - Boarding and Fixed-Post Locations (January 9, 2015 to Current)*

- Total Number of TSO Bus Boardings 7,843
- Total Number of TAPS (Fares Checked) 91,118
- High-Boarding Locations: Include El Monte Station, Union Station adjacent stops, Wilshire Boulevard at Western and Vermont, Universal City/Studio City Red Line Station Bus Terminal, North Hollywood Orange Line Bus Terminal, and Hollywood Boulevard at Highland.
- Fare Box data revealed TSO visibility and checks improved fare collection efforts on the lines where they were deployed (consistently)
  - o Examples: Fare Collection was up 8.2% at Chavez/Vignes, 10.5% at 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and 6.5% Universal City Station

\*Other jurisdictions surveyed, 53% was the highest comparative in the "cleared by arrest" category.

### **Community Oriented Transit Policing**

Transit Policing Division embraced recent audit findings concerning Transit Policing services for Metro. It has implemented many of the Audit's recommendations and has self-initiated other efforts aimed at achieving the goals and objectives contained in the comprehensive transit community policing plan.

- TPD now provides monthly crime reports to the Metro Board in an effort to ensure transparency, foster accountability, and information share.
- TPD's Strategic Plan and Community Policing plans have been realized, with Metro due to receive the latest installment of the annual Community Policing Plan in July 2015.
- Relationships have been fostered with partner agencies and community stakeholders who Metro and LASD serve. TPD personnel regularly meets with local agencies such as Long Beach, Santa Monica, and the Los Angeles Police Department, as well as attend agency briefings and stakeholder community meetings.
- TPD personnel orchestrated the creation of a Transit Policing "Division," in order to best meet Metro's diverse needs. Personnel, budget, and other aspects of Division autonomy will favorably and increasingly influence how TPD performs its work for Metro.
- TPD has worked collaboratively with Metro in providing Public Service Announcements aimed at enhancing the public's perception of a safe transit system, curbing Operator assaults, reporting suspected child exploitation or inappropriate and/or unlawful sexual advances on the system.

### **Creativity, Innovation, and Partnership Projects with Metro**

- In collaboration with Metro (and the "day-to-day management of Metro Security"), TPD embarked upon multiple 'never before' pilots, each of which have yielded favorable results. One such pilot was a Fare Enforcement and MPV Pilot initiated with TSOI's. Despite obstacles along the way, today, Metro Security personnel regularly perform fare inspections, MPV checks, and issue citations within the Metro system. A separate/second Bus Boarding Pilot was recently initiated (using formerly non-existent, unarmed, Metro Security personnel and unfilled FTE's). The Bus Boarding pilot has proved highly successful and yields consistent favorable results on fare box revenue, wherever the TSOI's are deployed. Because of this success, TPD (via the Director of Security), replicated the program and now there are two teams completing this task.
- LASD has recently sent Metro Security to a number of POST-certified training courses, critical to their craft and Metro's Mission. These include Active-Shooter Training, Mental Health Training, and a POST-approved Cultural Diversity course provided through the Museum of Tolerance.
- TPD has worked collaboratively with Metro in offsetting instances of operator assaults (whether via bus boardings, rides, plain clothes and/or uniformed operations, public service announcements or crime prevention through environmental design efforts. Recommendations acted on by Metro concerning Operator Partitions, CCTV or Operator Training (in defusing interactions) appear to be having favorable results and among this, operator feedback on partitions has proved largely favorable; and their effect, seemingly positive thus far.
- TPD has created a recurrent publication (and well over a year's worth of bi-monthly educational "pushes") entitled, "Did You Know?" These educational and/or officer safety related briefings are driven via email and reach all TPD personnel. Bite-sized training pieces are distributed on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month and train personnel in important safety information, such as bus shut offs, the 3<sup>rd</sup> rail, the Transit Watch App or other important safety/system information.