

ATTACHMENT A

BILL: HOUSE RESOLUTION 5857

AUTHOR: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE PETER DEFAZIO (4-OR)

SUBJECT: STOP SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT IN TRANSPORTATION ACT

STATUS: HOUSE – REFERRED TO THE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ACTION: SUPPORT

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors adopt a SUPPORT position on H.R. 5857– the Stop Sexual Assault and Harassment in Transportation Act authored by Representative Peter DeFazio of Oregon.

ISSUE

H.R. 5857 would require transportation providers to adopt a formal policy providing that sexual assault and harassment in transportation is unacceptable under any circumstance. These providers must prominently display, on their websites or otherwise, a statement that they have adopted such a policy as well as the procedures their passengers can follow for reporting incidents of sexual assault and harassment. The policy must facilitate the reporting of these incidents; establish procedures for employees to follow if such an incident is reported; and require all appropriate employees to be trained on the policy. Additionally, the bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to annually collect data on incidents of sexual assault and harassment and make this data publicly available.

DISCUSSION

Metro has taken strong and sustained actions to stop sexual assaults on and around our transportation network. Metro increased its efforts to reduce sexual harassment on our bus and rail system in April 2015 with our “It’s Off Limits” campaign that encourages victims and witnesses to contact police with reports of harassment. The campaign has included advertisements posted on buses and train cars in addition to distributing tens of thousands of information cards throughout the transit system. Our agency has also maintained a 24/7 hotline 844-Off-Limits (633-5464) that features counselors who are trained to address issues related to sexual harassment on a transit system. They can complete their reports on our digital complaint form on the Customer Relations site in 9 different Title VI languages that is offered by Metro.

Metro’s Civil Rights Complaint process is also posted throughout the system so that patrons know how to submit a civil rights complaint, which includes sexual harassment.

In addition, Metro provides the following within the agency:

- Conducts 2 hour Sexual Harassment Correction & Prevention trainings;
- Sexual Harassment online training for non-supervisors;
- Conduct Sexual Harassment training for new Bus Operators;
- Metro provides discussion during onboarding regarding Office of Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunities protected categories; and
- Metro has Civil Rights Policies 3 and 4 which cover Discrimination/Harassment/Retaliation and the Internal Complaint Process respectively; and Metro posts these policies and the CEO's statement about Sexual Harassment throughout the company.

For these reasons, staff recommends that the Board of Directors adopt a SUPPORT position on H.R. 5857. This recommendation is also consistent with Metro's Women and Girls Governing Council's support for this federal measure.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

Staff has reviewed this proposal and has determined that the legislation would assist in improving safety in Los Angeles County and nationwide.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Staff has not determined the financial impact of the bill.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Staff has considered adopting either an oppose or neutral position on the bill. An oppose or neutral position would be inconsistent with previous direction from Metro's Board of Directors with respect to the agency's Federal Legislative program goals.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board approve a SUPPORT position for H.R.5857, staff will prepare a position letter for the bill and work with Representative Peter DeFazio and other members of Congress as this bill continues to be considered by the appropriate congressional committees.