



Transit Advisory Working Group
 5977 Delmar Boulevard
 St. Louis, Missouri 63112



December 11, 2018

St. Louis City Mayor Lyda Krewson
 St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger
 St. Clair County Board Chairman Mark Kern
 Bi-State Board of Commissioners
 Bi-State Chief Executive Officer John Nations



Dear Mayor Krewson, County Executive Stenger, Chairman Kern,
 Bi-State Board of Commissioners and Mr. Nations:



EAST-WEST GATEWAY
 Council of Governments

Attached please find a report from the Transit Advisory Working Group (TAWG) detailing the progress made in 2018 to further the mutually agreed upon Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed in May 2017, to improve safety and restore public confidence in the MetroLink system.

The TAWG represents a diverse cross-section of riders, drivers and regional leaders who believe the cooperation of all stakeholders is critical to the continued success of the transit system in the bi-state metropolitan region. It has been meeting monthly, since June 2017, at the MetroLink Police Task Force Headquarters, at 5977 Delmar Blvd., adjacent to the Delmar MetroLink Station. This report provides an update on progress made to implement the action steps identified in the MOU.

It is important to note that there has been unprecedented cooperation and participation on the part of all involved stakeholders – and, progress is being made. In fact, law enforcement statistics showcase a reduction of crime on the MetroLink system.

The TAWG remains committed to providing the oversight and accountability necessary to ensure the MOU is fully executed in good faith by all participants as we head into 2019.

Thank you for entrusting us with this important work.

Regards,

- Amalgamated Transit Union Local 788
- Citizens for Modern Transit
- East-West Gateway Council of Governments

- MetroLink Police Task Force, consisting of the St. Louis County Police Department, St. Clair County Sheriff's Department and St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department
- Metro Transit
- Organization for Black Struggle
- SEIU Local 1
- Office of Prosecuting Attorney for St. Louis County
- St. Clair County Transit District
- St. Louis Community College
- St. Louis Regional Chamber
- University of Missouri – St. Louis
- Washington University

Transit Advisory Working Group MOU 2018 Progress Report December 10, 2018

In May 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established and signed by the St. Louis region's elected officials and Bi-State Development representatives to jointly address safety and security on the MetroLink system. The MOU laid out an action plan to:

- Form a Joint Task Force to delineate and educate law enforcement on the specific responsibilities and duties for each level of public safety. Targeted law enforcement includes St. Louis County Police, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department.
- Create new headquarters on the light rail alignment for the MetroLink Police Task Force.
- Initiate an environmental design/security audit that could lay the groundwork for determining the best technology to improve access control on the MetroLink system.
- Implement a pilot access control program at several MetroLink stations to increase safety and security.
- Develop a "ride and abide" policy to deter riders who have committed certain crimes from entering or remaining within Metro Transit property or territory.

The MOU also called for the formation of a Transit Advisory Working Group (TAWG) to ensure the implementation of objectives in a cooperative manner and in accordance with the timeline.

The TAWG assembled in May 2017 and is comprised of a diverse cross-section of riders, drivers and regional stakeholders that include representatives from, but not limited to, the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 788, Citizens for Modern Transit, SEIU Local 1, Organization for Black Struggle, East-West Gateway Council of Governments, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Washington University, St. Louis Community College, St. Louis Regional Chamber and Metro Transit, as well as prosecutors and law enforcement from the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and St. Clair County. This group is tasked with gathering input from stakeholders, seeking consensus among those responsible for MetroLink security measures and ensuring the MOU's action plan moves forward in a timely manner.

The TAWG has taken significant and measurable steps to help improve safety and restore public confidence. The purpose of this report is to update elected officials, stakeholders and the public on this progress.

Key objectives listed in the action plan were accomplished in accordance with the MOU as detailed below.

JOINT TASK FORCE

The Joint Task Force was formed in May 2017 and is comprised of law enforcement officers from the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and St. Clair County. Its purpose is to delineate and educate law enforcement and security staff on the specific responsibilities and duties of each level of public safety, provide greater officer presence to boost public confidence and help create a secure ridership experience.

The Joint Task Force has a clear organizational structure and chain of command. Captain Scott Melies, the commander of St. Louis County Bureau of Transit Police, serves as Operational Commander of the Joint Task Force. Lieutenant John Blaskiewicz of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department coordinates the rail-related safety and contract security staff from Metro Public Safety Department, operated by Bi-State Development.

In 2017, the number of police officers dedicated specifically to MetroLink security increased from 44 to 67.

In 2018, the following was accomplished:

- St. Louis County Police Officers continued the expansion of their coverage to include MetroLink stations within the boundaries of the City of St. Louis. All of these city and county police officers in Missouri have St. Louis City-County reciprocal authority via current law.
- The St. Clair County Transit Board voted in February to allocate an additional \$125,000 to fund the hiring of three additional St. Clair County Sheriff's deputies to help cover expanded MetroLink patrols to the Missouri side of the river.
- The St. Louis City Board of Aldermen passed Board Bill #37 in June, creating an ordinance authorizing a mutual aid agreement for St. Clair County Sheriff's deputies to provide law enforcement services on the Missouri side of the MetroLink system. St. Clair County passed a companion bill in August 2018. The Joint Task Force is waiting on final approval from the Missouri Department of Public Safety to expand Illinois patrols to Missouri stations.
- Plans were established to create and move police and Bi-State Development security to a single police radio communication channel for all three law enforcement agencies and the Bi-State Development Metro Public Safety Department. Final decisions are being made regarding the location of the dispatch center. The goal is to have the radio communication channel up and running for security by Spring of 2019.
- Statistical data continued to be examined and demonstrates a correlation between increased police and a decrease in crime. Part I crimes, which include robbery, are

down in every jurisdiction. A greater priority has also been placed on the enforcement of transit system rules, which include but are not limited to, the enforcement of fares, not allowing smoking and food/drink on trains, and other nuisance violations.

- Law enforcement has also made a commitment to increase its community engagement and interaction with transit commuters. The Joint Task Force is helping to host a “warm-up” event at the North Hanley MetroLink Station in mid-December to distribute gloves, hats and scarves to people in need who are riding the system.

METROLINK POLICE UNIT HEADQUARTERS

A MetroLink Police Task Force Headquarters was established in late summer of 2017 at 5977 Delmar Blvd, adjacent to the Delmar MetroLink Station. It continues to be utilized for the daily operations of the Joint Task Force.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AND SECURITY AUDIT

East-West Gateway Council of Governments’ Board of Directors approved the use of \$3.6 million in federal funding on Oct. 25, 2017, for a comprehensive security audit of the MetroLink system. East-West Gateway Council of Governments hired the New York-based consulting firm WSP, Inc. to execute a \$400,000 MetroLink Security Assessment, designed to examine current security policies on the MetroLink system and provide recommendations for improvements relative to technology, environmental design and human capital deployment.

In 2018, the following was accomplished:

- The MetroLink Security Assessment got underway in April 2018 and will wrap up in December 2018. This report will be issued to East-West Gateway Council of Governments in early January 2019 and will include recommendations and action items. The remaining funding will be used for implementation of some of the recommendations.
- A peer system review was held in November 2018, which enabled representatives of transit systems in other major metropolitan cities to weigh in on local issues, share best practices from respective security programs and discuss how these successes might be able to be emulated on the St. Louis MetroLink System. This effort included leaders from TriMet in Portland, Ore.; SacRT in Sacramento, Calif.; Metro Transit in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., and WMATA in Washington, D.C.

METROLINK ACCESS CONTROL PILOT PROGRAM

A pilot program designed to help improve fare validation and security presence at three highly utilized MetroLink stations was spearheaded by Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT) in September 2018 in partnership with Metro Transit, East-West Gateway Council of Governments, St. Clair County Transit District, the Organization for Black Struggle and local

law enforcement. The project was underwritten by CMT for \$45,000, and Metro contributed additional funds.

The pilot program included the development of a temporary access control plan that utilizes personnel and environmental design changes to better monitor and manage patrons arriving and departing from MetroLink stations with the intent of enhancing security, validating fares and building public confidence in the MetroLink system.

The pilot program, which was officially named the MetroLink Access Project, kicked-off on Sept. 10, 2018, at the Forest Park-DeBaliviere, North Hanley and Fairview Heights MetroLink Stations and ran through Oct. 5, 2018. Over a four-week duration, contracted security officers, with the support of local law enforcement, monitored and enforced fare validation for 21 hours each day.

MetroLink Access Project results demonstrated rider, community and stakeholder support for access control changes. Evidence-based findings were shared with those administering the MetroLink Security Assessment.

RIDE AND ABIDE POLICY

An exclusion policy, commonly referred to as a "Ride and Abide," was developed by the TAWG in November 2018. It's intent is promote the safety and comfort of all commuters and transit employees and facilitate the proper use of transit facilities and services, by deterring riders who have committed certain crimes from entering or remaining within Metro Transit property or territory.

The TAWG recently finalized and adopted the "Ride and Abide" policy and submitted to Bi-State Development. Next steps will be determined based on its adoption by the agency.