

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
**Board Action/Information Summary**

Action  Information

MEAD Number:  
200412

Resolution:  
 Yes  No

**TITLE:**

October 2013 MTPD Security Report

**PRESENTATION SUMMARY:**

The Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) October Board Safety and Security Committee Report publicly communicates security-related information which occurred during January through August 2013.

**PURPOSE:**

The MTPD Security Report informs the Safety and Security Committee regarding crime in the Metro system and indicates performance measurement in accordance with Metro goals. Further, the report provides our customers and employees with important information to help ensure their own personal security in the transit operating environment. The October Security Report will address and compare the first eight months (January - August) of 2013, with the same period of time in 2012 and against the 2013 Part I Crime target of less than 2,000 Part I Crimes.

**DESCRIPTION:**

A feeling of safety and security while riding on Metrorail or Metrobus is a key component of customer satisfaction. To ensure that security remains at the forefront of the customer experience, crime reduction has been included as a performance measure in the Business Plan. The Part I Crime 2013 performance target is less than 2,000 Part I Crimes.

**Key Highlights:**

- The probability of being the victim of a Part I Crime in the Metrorail system is 7.08 per million riders for the first eight (8) months of 2013, which is lower than that in the Washington Metropolitan region
- The National Capital Region is experiencing an increase in cell phone and device snatches and bike thefts that, in turn, is driving an increase in crime on Metro
- 59% of all Part I Crime in the Metro system involve the theft of a cell phone or bicycle
- Overall Part I Crime is up by 9.8% when comparing 2012 (1,304 crimes) to 2013 (1,432 crimes)
- Without the cell phones and bike thefts, the Part I Crime rate on Metro would be about 4.7 crimes per million riders
- Crime is at 71.6% of the crime reduction target of <2,000 Part I Crimes; a conservative trend analysis suggests crime could break even with that target

- Parking Part I Crime has continued its ten year decline decreasing over 35%
- The MTPD recognized September National Emergency Preparedness Month and October National Crime Prevention Month with a number of community outreach events focusing on public education

### **Background and History:**

The MTPD utilizes reported Part I Crime statistics to provide a depiction of security in Metrorail, Metrobus, parking facilities, and other Authority property. Continuous analysis of Part I Crime based on a multitude of variables to include location and circumstance, assists the MTPD with efficient, effective use of resources coupled with the development of strategies and tactics to prevent crime on Metro property. In 2010, the Transit Police introduced a new process called MetroSTAT, Managing and Enforcing Transit Related Offenses. MetroSTAT is based on five basic principles which have been identified as best practices by law enforcement agencies in the establishment of a crime control model. MetroSTAT basic guidelines are:

- Specific objectives
- Timely and accurate intelligence
- Effective strategies and tactics
- Rapid deployment of personnel and resources
- Relentless follow up and assessment

### **Discussion:**

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is the standard by which a uniform and reliable set of crime statistics can be generated to provide a nationwide view of crime. The program identifies eight common Part I Crimes, murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, and arson, and two additional crimes involving human trafficking (commercial sex acts and involuntary servitude), to be considered indicators of the level of crime occurring in jurisdictions. Reports of Part I Crimes have been consistently reported to our customers for many years.

Throughout the National Capital Region, increases in thefts of cell phones and electronic devices and bicycles are commonplace for many of our jurisdictional partners. Crime in Metro is a generally a reflection of crime in our adjoining neighborhoods, but as reported in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Annual Report of Crime, usually lower. In the first eight months of 2013, there were 1,432 Part I Crimes reported in the Metro system, an increase of 9.8% over 2012 for the same period of time. Part I Crimes are divided into two major categories: crimes against property and crimes against persons.

Overall Part I crimes against property increased by 6.8% in 2013 attributed to an increase in the thefts of cell phones and bicycles. These two crimes stand out in both Metrorail and Metrobus crime statistics. Theft snatch of cell phone has been described as “rampant”, not only in the Metro system, but is considered a national problem in urban areas. From January through August there have been 450 theft snatches (up 37%) in the Metro system, including bus and rail. The cultural norm of this crime is that

the action is easy, the device is easy to conceal, the payoff is lucrative, arrest and prosecution is difficult, and victims are everywhere. Law enforcement agencies, to include the MTPD, have partnered with cell phone carriers and each other, but no concrete solution has been identified. Cell phone users are encouraged to remain vigilant while in public. The MTPD has been conveying this message to the public using various methods, through printed material and public address systems.

Bicycle thefts have increased by 50% from 202 in 2012 to 303 this year. Bicycle theft is a crime of opportunity, with the same kind of lucrative pay off as cell phones. The MTPD has partnered with other Metro offices to address this crime. A secure bike facility has been opened at College Park station, and other planned at Metro stations with high bicycle ridership. This summer, MTPD created and distributed new crime prevention literature, gave away bicycle locks, and introduced a Metro bicycle registration program. Over 600 bikes have been registered since the registration web page launched.

Robberies are the most prevalent crime against persons, accounting for about 80%. Robberies are further divided into three subgroups: force and violence, armed, and fear. Of the robberies 185 of 278 (66.5%) involved force and violence, usually meaning that the victim refused to relinquish his or her property and struggled with the suspect. Over 50% of all robberies involved the taking of a cell phone.

The MTPD continues to actively monitor sexual harassment complaints via the Metro web-based reporting page. In 2013, there were a total of 71 reports of sexual harassment. Ten of the reports were formally reported to the MTPD as offense reports and actively investigated; in the remaining 61 reports, either the victim did not want to pursue a formal report, no actual crime was committed, or the victim wanted to remain anonymous. Nine reports from the web page were not related to sexual harassment.

September was National Preparedness month. To recognize emergency preparedness and educate our riders on what to do during emergencies, twenty-one outreach events were conducted at six Metro stations, three Metro facilities, four community events and universities, and participated in eight events at Federal agencies. In addition, Joint Supervisory Training was developed to address feedback to improve operational coordination and recovery efforts during emergency events. The class is a full day of instruction that includes participation in a table-top exercise to enhance participants' incident management, customer service and communication skills. The mandatory course for supervisors will continue for a period of 25 weeks, and will be attended by Transit Police, Office of Rail Transportation, Office of Bus Transportation, and outside fire departments. Eventually all Metro employees having a role in emergency response and recovery are expected to complete the course.

October is National Crime Prevention Month. Among the many outreach activities planned for the month are high visibility details, crime prevention literature and giveaway distribution, and a bike lock exchanges and registration events. Continuing a summer initiative, MTPD, Bus and Customer Service are attending back to school nights and school assemblies promoting the Respect Your Ride campaign where the rules of the Ride Free on Bus program are reviewed with the students. Since June we have hosted and/or attended sixteen (16) Respect Your Ride events including Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, Prince George's County Back to School Event, Central High School, Academies at Anacostia High School, Stuart Hobson Middle School, and

two WKYS Cuts (Radio Station) – Back to School Events, to name a few.

**FUNDING IMPACT:**

Define current or potential funding impact, including source of reimbursable funds.	
Project Manager:	Insert manager`s name
Project Department/Office:	Insert responsible department/office

**TIMELINE:**

<b>Previous Actions</b>	<p>June/2010 – MTPD began bi-weekly crime meetings called MetroStat to report crime and develop and assess strategies and tactics to reduce crime.</p> <p>July/2013 – MTPD partnered with WMATA Customer Service to initiate a youth education program called Respect Your Ride. Participated in 16 events.</p> <p>September/2013 - MTPD Office of Emergency Management participated in 21 outreach events to recognize National Preparedness Month</p>
<b>Anticipated actions after presentation</b>	<p>October/2013 and forward – Continue bi-weekly MetroStat crime meetings.</p> <p>October/2013 - MTPD conducts numerous outreach events, including bicycle registrations and lock give-aways, targeted patrol activity, distribution of crime prevention literature, and public education, to recognize National Crime Prevention Month.</p> <p>October/2013 and forward - Continue Respect Your Ride outreach activities to include introduction of safe rider education for youth in close proximity to the Silver Line.</p>

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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# All Metrorail Stations 2013 January - August

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Total Part 1 Crimes</b>
1	Brookland	44
2	Deanwood	41
3	Minnesota Avenue	40
4	Gallery Place	35
5	Rhode Island Avenue	34
6	L'Enfant Plaza	33
7	Capitol Heights	33
8	Benning Road	30
9	West Hyattsville	28
10	Vienna	28



# District of Columbia 2013 January - August

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Total Part 1 Crimes</b>
1	Brookland	44
2	Deanwood	41
3	Minnesota Avenue	40
4	Gallery Place	35
5	Rhode Island Avenue	34
6	L'Enfant Plaza	33
7	Benning Road	30
8	Fort Totten	27
9	Georgia Avenue-Petworth	26
10	Union Station	23



# State of Maryland

## 2013 January - August

Rank	Location	Total Part 1 Crimes
1	Capitol Heights	33
2	West Hyattsville	28
3	College Park	25
4	Southern Avenue	24
5	Largo Town Center	24
6	New Carrollton	21
7	Greenbelt	21
8	Prince George's Plaza	21
9	Branch Avenue	21
10	Suitland	16



# Commonwealth of Virginia 2013 January - August

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Total Part 1 Crimes</b>
1	Vienna	28
2	West Falls Church	19
3	Dunn Loring	15
4	East Falls Church	11
5	Franconia-Springfield	11
6	Huntington	11
7	King Street	10
8	Braddock Road	10
9	Rosslyn	9
10	Van Dorn Street	9



# Security Report

Safety and Security Committee

October 10, 2013



# MTPD Significant Facts

## January – August 2013

- Metro riders are less likely to be a crime victim on the system than outside the system
- Regional and national wave of cell phone snatches and bike thefts is driving Metro's crime statistics
- 59% of all Metro crime is cell phone and bike theft
- Parking lot crime continues to decline



## 2012 Annual Report on Crime & Crime Control



 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



# Part I Crime Against Property

Crimes Against Property	Type	Jan-Aug 2012	Jan-Aug 2013
Larceny/Theft	Snatch	327	450
	Pickpocket	157	41
	From Auto	168	98
	Bicycle	202	303
	Other	94	137
Auto Theft/Attempts		66	53
Burglary		0	0
Arson		1	2

Total thefts from  
cell phones + bikes =

**59%**

Of all Metro Part I Crime



# Part I Crime Against Persons

Crimes Against Persons	Type	Jan-Aug 2012	Jan-Aug 2013
Robbery	Force & Violence	143	185
	Armed	50	73
	Fear	14	20
Aggravated Assault		82	70
Rape		0	0
Homicide		0	0

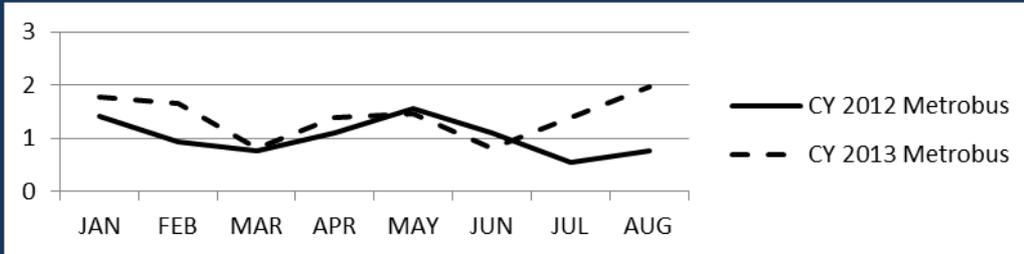
## Actions

Policing with proactive tactics such as High Intensity Targeted Enforcement

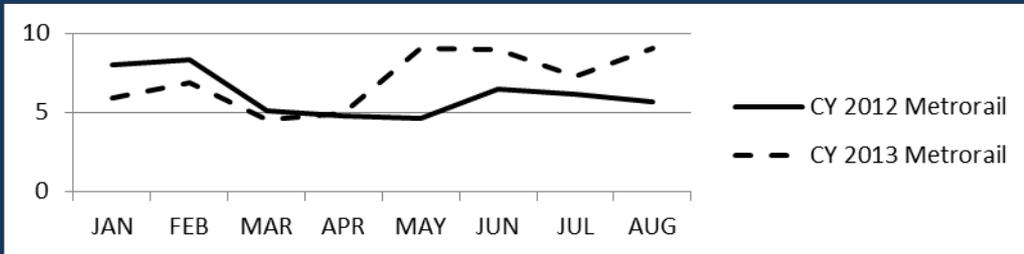
Analyzing environment through MetroStat to determine best utilization of resources



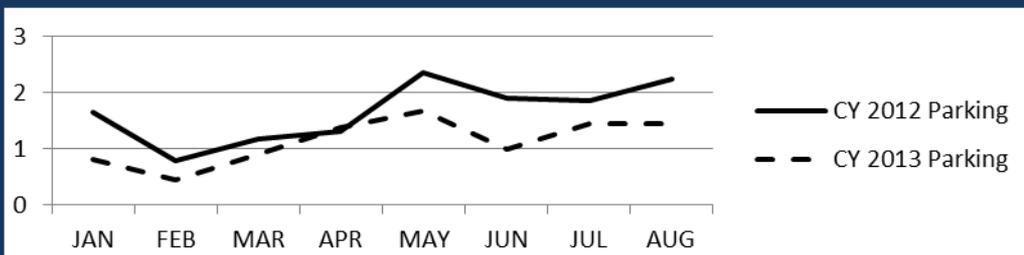
# Monthly Part I Crime Rate Comparison 2012 vs 2013



Metrobus Part I Crime increased in 2013



Metrorail Part I Crime increased slightly in 2013



Parking Facility Part I Crime lower than 2013

# Sexual Harassment Complaints

January – August

- 71 Total Reports
- Classifications
  - Criminal - 29
  - Criminal Non-sexual - 9
  - Harassment – 33





# MTPD Customer Focus

## National Preparedness Month

## September

## Outreach/Joint Supervisory Training





# MTPD Customer Focus

## National Crime Prevention Month

### October



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Home Rail Bus Accessibility Getting Around Fares Rider Tools About Metro

**About Metro**

- Board of Directors
- General Manager
- Strategic Plan
- Scorecard
- Inspector General
- Careers
- Transit Police
- Newsroom
- Questions & Answers
- Riders' Advisory Council
- Public Records & Reports
- Planning & Development
- Civil Rights - Title VI
- Lost & Found
- Contact Metro

**Register Your Bike with MTPD**

Registering your bike can help the police identify and recover it in the event that it is lost or stolen. Because many bikes look alike, identifying your bike with its serial number is the best way to protect your property.

Bike registration with Metro Transit Police is quick, easy and free. Simply complete the online form below and press SUBMIT.

\* indicates a required field.

**Contact Information**

First Name\*  Last Name\*

Home Address\*

**M metro**

wmata.com

Respect Your Ride