



Customer Service, Operations and Security Committee

Information Item IV-A

December 1, 2016

Security Report

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Board Action/Information Summary

☐ Action ☒ Information

MEAD Number:
201815

Resolution:
☐ Yes ☒ No

TITLE:

MTPD 2016 January - September Security Report

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

The Metro Transit Police security report ensures crime information is publicly communicated to enhance the security of our customers and the protection of Metro employees. This security report will address and compare Part 1 crime data of January through September from CY2015 to CY2016.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the MTPD security presentation is to provide members of the Metro Board with information and analysis of Part I crime offenses that occur in the Metro system.

DESCRIPTION:

Crime reduction is a performance measure included in Metro's Business Plan. For the purposes of this report, crime statistics used are in the major category designated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as Part I Crime. Part I Crime includes eight (8) specific crimes: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. As a matter of information, the FBI has added two crimes to these legacy Part I crimes: Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts, and Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude. To date, neither of the Human Trafficking offenses have been reported to the MTPD. In addition, in 2013 the FBI began using a more inclusive definition of rape encompassing male and female victims and including instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

Key Highlights:

- The rate of Part I crime in the Metro system for the first nine months of 2016 is 5.4 crimes per million riders (CPM).
- Bus crime was significantly lower than last year, reduced by almost 30 percent in 2016.
- Rail crime was reduced by about 6.7 percent in 2016 compared to last year.
- An increase of over 47 percent of Part I crimes in Metro parking lots and garages from 2015 compared to 2016 is attributed to thefts from vehicles.
- The MTPD continued initiatives to improve officer visibility including surge deployments and fare evasion details in both rail and bus.

Background and History:

In 2016, the crime performance tracking measure was changed from a computation of raw data to a ratio of crime compared to ridership data. The new measure, Part I crime per million riders (CPM) has a performance target of 5.0 CPM. An additional change is the combination of ridership and crime data from all modes, bus, rail, and parking lots, to calculate the rate of crime, rather than accounting for each mode separately. During the first nine months of 2016, the rate of Part I crime in the Metro System was higher than the established performance target (5.0 CPM) with a rate of 5.4 CPM. This year ridership has decreased because of surge projects, station closings for emergencies, and single tracking events; the lower ridership resulted in an uptick in the rate of crime. It is significant to mention that even though the target was not met, crime in the Metro system was reduced. In terms of raw data, Part I crimes were lowered to a total of 1,191 offenses, a reduction of twelve crimes, during the first nine months of 2016.

Discussion:

The most successful strategy in for the reduction of Part I crime in 2016 compared to 2015 was on Metrobus. Part I crime was reduced by almost 30 percent. The MTPD continued an increase of both uniformed and casual clothes police deployments on buses to combat fare evasion. An increased presence of police officers on buses, writing citations and making arrests for fare evasions, also helped reduce the number of bus operator assaults. While bus operator assaults are more often classified as a simple assault, these assaults have a detrimental effect on the safety of both employees and passengers, and the overall perception of security on the buses. Other strategies to reduce operator assaults, such as bus shields and training, have been initiated through collaboration with management, employees, and MTPD.

Part I crimes in Metrorail stations and onboard trains were slightly reduced in 2016, by 6.7 percent from 2015. For several years, theft snatches of cell phones were one of the most prevalent Part I crimes. This year, we experienced a reduction of about one third the number of theft snatches compared to 2015 (236 vs. 163.) However, cell phone related crimes continue to be pervasive in both Metrorail and Metrobus. The devices are small, expensive items, and easy to steal. For example, pickpockets are on the rise, up by about 33 percent from 2015 to 2016. Most often, the object pickpocketed is a cell phone. Robberies increased slightly in 2016 compared to 2015, by just over two percent, with a spike of armed robberies in rail stations. Again, cell phones are involved in almost all of the robberies, regardless of the crime method used by the suspect.

Aggravated assaults increased by about 28 percent early this year compared to 2015. Of the 109 aggravated assaults recorded, the majority were perpetrated by young men against other young men. In most attacks, the victim is punched with a fist, and in about a third of the cases, a weapon is used. The motives for aggravated assaults are divided among three prevalent categories: arguments, unknown and/or unprovoked attacks, and robberies or attempts to rob. More than half of all aggravated assaults occur in Metrorail stations in the District of Columbia.

There was an increase in successful stolen vehicles this year over 2015, from 19 to 27, while attempts to steal vehicles were drastically reduced from 13 to one. As a matter of information, an attempt to steal a vehicle is counted as a Part I crime. In total, motor vehicle thefts and/or attempts were reduced by about 12 percent in 2016 compared to 2015. The challenge in parking lot crime this year has been in the form of thefts from

autos, a recorded increase of about 60 percent in 2016. Thefts from vehicles are usually characterized by the suspect entering a vehicle by breaking a window, then ransacking the interior and stealing whatever is found. Stolen items may be as small as coins, or as valuable as computers. Other offenses include thefts of auto parts, such as tires or airbags. At the College Park Metro parking garage, there were 15 airbags stolen during the third quarter of this year.

Thefts of bicycles have been included in many of our security briefings in the past. This year the MTPD deployed a bicycle theft detail to deter and enforce during the peak summer months. Some success was experienced with a reduction of the number of thefts by just over four percent for the year compared to 2015, and during the third quarter bike thefts were reduced by eleven percent over 2015. Bicycle thefts have commonly been reported at Northern Virginia stations in the last few years, however, this year the hot spots moved to Maryland rail stations, particularly Twinbrook and West Hyattsville.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Define current or potential funding impact, including source of reimbursable funds.	
Project Manager:	Chief Ronald A. Pavlik, Jr.
Project Department/Office:	Metro Transit Police Department

This document is for information only. Any potential funding for actions are part of the planned budget process.

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	<p>April 2015 - Present – Fare evasion initiative.</p> <p>August 2015 - Present – Youth safety and security initiative. Respect Your Ride Campaign. Outreach activities.</p>
Anticipated actions after presentation	<p>Continue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fare evasion initiative on rail and bus. • Collaboration with bus operators and bus managers to reduce bus crime and operator assaults. • Youth outreach campaign/Respect Your Ride • Surge deployments of uniformed officers during morning and evening rush hours for increased visibility. • Maximize recruitment efforts with MTPD Recruitment Officer to fill MTPD vacancies. • Collaborate with National Capital Region law enforcement agencies to prepare for 2017 Presidential Inauguration events.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend continuation of deployment strategies of the MTPD.



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Part I Crime Against Property

Crimes Against Property	Type	Jan-Sept 2015	Jan-Sept 2016
Larceny/Theft	Snatch	236	163
	Pickpocket	48	64
	From Auto	127	124
	Bicycle	238	228
	Other	154	192
Auto Theft/Attempts		54	45
Burglary		0	2
Arson		1	3



**Theft Snatches
Of Cell Phones
Decreased**



Part I Crime Against Persons

Crimes Against Persons	Type	Jan-Sept 2015	Jan-Sept 2016
Robbery	Force & Violence	171	161
	Armed	79	83
	Fear	10	10
Aggravated Assault		85	109
Rape		0	5
Homicide		*2	*4
*Homicides are reported and investigated by other police agencies.			



Bus Operator Assaults Down



MTPD Significant Facts

**Metro System
Part I Crime Rate
January – September 2016
5.4
Crimes Per Million Riders**





Sexual Harassment Complaints

Classification	2015	2016
Criminal	32	29
Criminal Non-Sexual	12	5
Harassment	31	24
YTD Total	75	58

22%
Less
Online
Reports

YOU DESERVE TO BE
TREATED WITH RESPECT.

Report sexual harassment.

It's easy, anonymous, and
it'll help keep your Metro safe.

- text "MyMTPD"
- 202.962.2121
- wmata.com/harassment
- tell a Metro employee

