



Customer Service, Operations and Security Committee

Information Item II-B

May 12, 2016

Quarterly Security Report

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Board Action/Information Summary

☐ Action ☒ Information

MEAD Number:
201745

Resolution:
☐ Yes ☒ No

TITLE:

2016 First Quarter Security Report

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

The Metro Transit Police (MTPD) security report provides crime information that is publicly communicated to enhance the security and protection of Metro customers and employees. This security report will provide Part I crime data from first quarter CY2016, and will compare those statistics to the same period in CY2015.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Metro Transit Police security presentation is to provide members of the Metro Board with information and analysis of Part I crime incidents in the Metro system.

DESCRIPTION:

Part I crime statistics are designated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as being part of a group which includes the following specific crimes: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and human trafficking.

Key Highlights:

- The probability of being the victim of a Part I Crime in the Metro system was 4.7 crimes per million passengers during the first quarter of CY2016.
- Overall, Part I crimes increased by just over 19%.
- Part I crimes on Metrorail increased by about 26%.
- MTPD increased deployments of uniformed police officers on board buses, on trains, and in stations to improve security particularly during late afternoon and evening hours of service.

Background and History:

Part I crime is utilized as the statistical standard of comparison in the Metro system. In past years, the performance measure was expressed as a raw number of Part I crimes, for example, the performance target in CY2015 was $\leq 1,900$ Part I crimes. Beginning this calendar year, the performance target was changed to capture the element of ridership. Therefore, for this report, the performance target is expressed as a rate of crime rather than a raw number. The target for CY2016 is set at a rate of ≤ 5.0 crimes per million passengers.

Discussion:

The rate of Part I crime in the Metro system for the first quarter of 2016 was 4.7 crimes per million passengers. The rate is below the performance target of ≤ 5.0 crimes per million passengers. Even as the rate of crime was within the set performance parameters, there are some crime categories that did not perform as well as the comparable 2015 quarter.

Part I crime on buses continues to be recorded at less than one crime per million passengers. In terms of absolute numbers, there were 21 major offenses reported on board buses during the first quarter. The most prevalent Part I crimes on buses were: aggravated assault (6), robbery (5), and theft snatch (4). Three of the aggravated assaults were committed against bus operators. The MTPD has established partnerships with bus personnel to help reduce crime on buses and assaults on bus operators. MTPD officials attend safety meetings at bus divisions to ensure open lines of communication and direct contact with bus operators. New strategies are being utilized for the reduction of fare evasion on buses. Bus personnel routinely attend and provide input at MTPD crime strategy meetings (MetroStat). Bus operator assaults were reduced in the first quarter by about 31%, comparing 2016 (13 assaults) to 2015 (17 assaults). The first Transit Employee Assault Reduction Symposium was held recently to bring all stakeholders together to help keep employees safe. These efforts will continue in the coming months.

Crimes involving theft of property are the most prevalent Part I crime in the Metro system. Thefts of bicycles increased by approximately 62%; more than any other Part I crime during the first quarter of CY2016. The locations of the bicycle thefts were somewhat unusual during that quarter because the crimes shifted from predominantly Northern Virginia Metro stations to stations on the Red line and in Northern Prince George's County. Further, the uptick in bicycle thefts usually commence an upward trend during warmer months. Resources, such as casual clothes teams and bait bikes, have been deployed to mitigate this early onset of bicycle thefts. Patrol officers will also intensify outreach efforts to register bicycles and provide free locks to our passengers who travel to our stations via bicycle.

Parking lot crimes, including thefts of autos (including attempts) and thefts from autos, increased during this quarter. Thefts in parking lots occurred generally all around the Metro system, however, there were some specific areas that were identified. For example, in January and February, there were 12 thefts from autos at the Minnesota Avenue station parking garage. Following an arrest in the garage on February 28, 2016, no more thefts were reported at the Minnesota Avenue garage. Auto thefts increased from 2 in 2015 to 10 vehicles stolen from Metro parking lots in 2016. The top two stations were Capitol Heights (3 vehicles stolen) and Landover (2 vehicles stolen).

Snatches of cell phones continue to be an issue on trains, in stations, and on buses. A total of 67 cell phones were snatched from victims riding Metro during the first quarter. This is a reduction of over 19% from last year, and is part of a downward trend in this particular crime over the last five years. Warnings to protect personal property while travelling through the Metro system are broadcasted regularly via public address systems.

Another Part I crime which, in many instances, involve the taking of cell phones, is robbery. The FBI classifies robbery into three categories: Force and Violence, Fear, and Armed. Overall robberies increased by about 24%. Almost 72% occurred in the Metrorail system; 24% occurred at bus stops; and about 4% occurred on board buses. Robberies can happen at any time, however, they are more frequent on Fridays and Saturdays, usually during the evening hours. Over half of suspects in Metro robberies are described as young men, and in about 64% of cases there was more than one suspect. It is also interesting to note that in 65% of the cases, the victim was also a young man. The most prevalent type of robbery in the Metro system is Force and Violence, which is characterized by the taking of property utilizing physical force such as hitting or pushing. There were 56 cases of robbery Force and Violence in the first quarter, an increase of about 21%. In 45% of all robbery cases the property taken from the victim was a cell phone.

Homicides, in accordance with Memoranda of Understanding between MTPD and local jurisdictional police departments, are investigated by the local jurisdiction and reported as a statistic to the FBI from the jurisdiction. However, it would be remiss of MTPD not to mention the two homicides which occurred on separate occasions at the Deanwood Metro station. In both instances, a young life was taken in a senseless and horrific public display of violence. While we cannot undo those crimes, we have instituted a stationary security presence at the Deanwood Metro station. Further, as a result of those events and feedback from customers who were seeing more officers in the Metro system, the MTPD began overtime surge details to provide greater security during evening rush hours and other times when the threat of crime is greatest in the system.

FUNDING IMPACT:

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

The reporting of first quarter security statistics have no impact on funding.

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	<p>January/2016 – Establish partnerships with bus employees to reduce crime and increase safety for employees.</p> <p>January/2016 - Continue Respect Your Ride outreach program to promote youth safety and security while riding Metro.</p> <p>April/2016 - Complete and award a contract for new high visibility uniforms for sworn police officers.</p> <p>April/2016 - Institute surge high visibility patrols during high crime periods.</p>
Anticipated actions after presentation	<p>May/2016 - Continue surge overtime details.</p> <p>May/2016 - Continue enhanced relationships with bus personnel and ensure current bus security operations are maintained or improved over the coming months.</p> <p>July/2016 – Change of police officer navy blue uniforms to new high visibility uniforms that feature bright yellow color areas and reflective lettering on the shirts and outer ballistic vests.</p>

RECOMMENDATION:

None



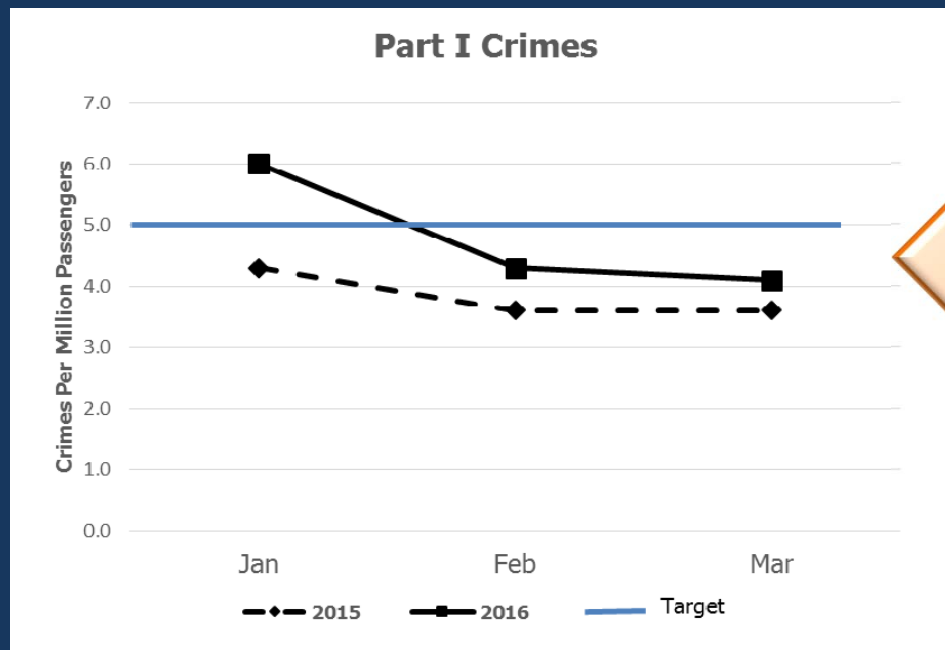
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

2016 Q1 Security Report

**Customer Service, Security and Planning Committee
May 12, 2016**



Quarterly Part I Crime Rate Comparison 2015 vs 2016



**First Quarter
Performance**
4.7
**Crimes Per Million
Passengers**

MWCOG 2014 Regional Crime Rate
22.72
Crimes Per 1,000 Population



Part I Crime Against Property

Crimes Against Property	Type	2015	2016
Larceny/Theft	Snatch	83	67
	Pickpocket	14	20
	From Auto	29	43
	Bicycle	24	39
	Other	36	40
Auto Theft/Attempts		8	11
Burglary		0	2
Arson		1	1



Crimes Against Property
Increased
14%



Part I Crime Against Persons

Crimes Against Persons	Type	2015	2016
Robbery	Force & Violence	47	56
	Armed	21	29
	Fear	4	4
Aggravated Assault		29	41
Rape		0	0
Homicide		0	1*



Crimes Against
Persons Increased
29%



Crime Reduction Actions

- Deploying officers based on MetroStat crime statistics
- Surge/Visibility patrols
- Extending tours of duty to provide overlap
- Utilizing specialized officers to supplement patrol officers (K-9s, etc.)
- Stationary details at high crime stations
- Fare evasion details
- CCTV
- Collaborating with internal partners
- Collaborating with local police
- Participating in MPDC Robbery Task Force
- Increasing the use of BOLOs and media messaging
- Text Tips
- Bus Watch on midnight patrol
- Utilizing light duty staff
- Redesign of uniforms



Sexual Harassment Complaints

Criminal

Reports 4

Criminal Non-Sexual

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Report Harassment



To report a crime in progress or other emergency, call Metro Transit Police at (202) 962-2121 or 911 immediately.



MTPD Partnering With BUS

Key Actions to Increase Bus Security

- Metrobus Enforcement Division targeted deployments
- High Intensity Targeted Enforcement (HITEs)
- Introduction to conflict resolution training with bus operators
- Town hall meetings at every division to improve relationships
- Implementation of cross-functional task team
- Bus employees attending MetroStat crime meetings
- Overtime details to reduce fare evasion
- Continuation of Respect Your Ride youth campaign

