

**Metro**Los Angeles County  
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metro.net**SYSTEM SAFETY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 15, 2012****SUBJECT: LACMTA'S PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM****ACTION: CONTINUE THE PROGRAM UNTIL ITS CONTRACT EXPIRATION AND  
INITIATE THE NEXT PROCUREMENT WITH EVALUATION****RECOMMENDATION**

- A. Continue the Red Light Photo Enforcement (RLPE) program under the current contract which will expire on June 30, 2013.
- B. Commence procurement for a new contract to extend the program to future years with a bi-annual performance evaluation.

**ISSUE**

In July 2011, the City of Los Angeles (City) ended its red light photo enforcement program due to conflicting evidence about the program's effectiveness and also issues related to enforcing these citations by the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Metro Board of Directors instructed staff to assess the agency's red light photo enforcement program in September of 2011. Since then, staff has conducted a five month citations evaluation and also worked to introduce legislation which will help enforce these citations.

**DISCUSSION**

In a Board report dated June 21, 2012, staff recommended continuing the existing RLPE program until the end of the current year, and pending the outcome of Metro-sponsored legislation that would expand the Courts' jurisdiction to enforce citations.

For a period of five months starting on August 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, staff tracked and analyzed the status of citations issued on the Metro Blue, Gold, and Orange Lines, to determine the effectiveness of Metro's RLPE program and also the possible impact of the City's discontinuance of the RLPE program.

**Status on Citations Issued**

The table below shows the status of all citations issued between August 2011 and December 2011, as of September 30, 2012.

	Citations Issued	Citations Paid	Citations Dismissed	Citations Re-issued	Citations Open
Orange Line	5,361	2,267	1,015	472	1,607
Blue Line	1,049	341	156	101	451
Gold Line	1,151	458	234	85	374
Total:	7,561	3,066	1,405	658	2,432
% of Total Citations Issued:	100%	41%	19%	9%	32%

As noted above, 68% of the motorists who received citations have taken some corrective action related to their violation. Moreover, since the June 2012 update to the Board, the percentage of open citations (those that have yet to be addressed by the motorists) has decreased from 45% to 32%. This change in the number of open citations indicates that motorists are addressing their citations as time progresses regardless of the fact that the City's RLPE program has discontinued.

### System-wide Violations Comparison

Staff also examined if the City's termination of its RLPE program has had any impact on the motorists behaviors on Metro's Blue, Gold and Orange Lines. Staff compared the number of violations one year prior to and one year after the City's RLPE program ended. The comparison yielded the following results:

	Gold Line Violations	Orange Line Violations	Blue Line (Gated) Violations	Blue Line (Street) Violations	Total Violations
Aug 2010 to July 2011	13,603	23,032	1,930	6,171	44,736
Aug 2011 to July 2012	9,688	28,332	1,575	7,102	46,697
% Difference	-40%	19%	-23%	13%	4%

As indicated in the table above, violations along the Gold and Blue Lines (gated) have decreased while violations along the Orange and Blue Line (street) have increased. Although this data may be inconclusive at this time, staff believes that the expansion of the Courts' jurisdiction to enforce citations would help decrease the rate of violations throughout Metro's system.

Moreover, the program's historical data indicates that there has been a positive safety benefit in reducing the number of violations and accidents on our system. As the table below indicates, there has been a reduction of violations along all the Lines as the result of the RLPE program.

	Reduction in Violations (Percentage)	Reduction in Accidents (Percentage)
Blue Line (Gated)	78%	78%
Blue Line (Non-Gated)	66%	43%
Gold Line (Non-Gated)	8%	
Orange Line	50%	44%

### Status of proposed legislation

Staff worked with County Counsel and developed legislative language that would have expanded the Courts' jurisdiction to enforce citations. Unfortunately, staff was not able to get a sponsor to champion our efforts this year. Staff will continue working with legislative offices to explore administrative solutions through the court system.

### **DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT**

Approval of this item will result in enhancing the safety of the general public, and Metro's patrons and employees. Furthermore, approving this item will reduce our service interruptions, and accident-related costs.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The total annual cost of the program is \$1,821,600. Funding for the duration of the contract is budgeted in cost center 6810 - Corporate Safety, Projects 300022 – Rail Operations, Blue Line, and 300055 – Gold Line, and cost center 0311 – Non-Departmental Bus Operations, Project 306006 – Systemwide Bus Operations Management and Administration.

The agency received revenues, through paid citations, in the amount of \$1,366,614. According to these estimates, Metro will incur a net cost of \$454,986 for continuing the program through the scheduled Contracts' end dates of June 30, 2013. The estimates assume the rate of violation will be consistent with the evaluation period.

### Impact to Budget

The source of funds for this action is Prop A, and Prop. C, and will be obtained through Metro Blue, Orange, Gold, and Exposition Lines' Operating budgets.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Allowing the current contracts to expire on their scheduled date of June 30, 2013 will allow staff to solicit a new contract with an effective date of July 1, 2013.

### Discontinue Photo Enforcement

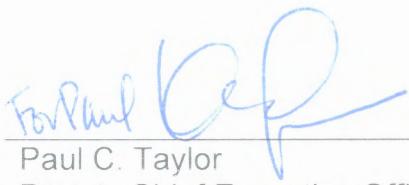
Staff strongly recommends the Board not take this action as it will result in:

- Increase in unsafe driving habits
- Increase in accidents
- Increase in claims and litigation costs
- Interruption in operations resulting in inefficient levels of service to the public
- Increase cost to Metro by having additional LASD Deputies conduct enforcement

## NEXT STEPS

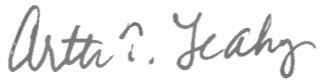
Staff will continue the existing RLPE program until the end of the current contract's expiration date of June 30, 2013, and upon Board approval, issue a new procurement contract with an effective date of July 1, 2013.

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