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# TRANSIT ENFORCEMENT

**ORGANIZATION** The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Transit Enforcement maintains a safe and healthy transit environment for MTS Bus and Trolley patrons as well as for MTS employees through professional, proactive security and law enforcement services.

**DIVISIONS** MTS Transit Enforcement has close to 200 personnel in two divisions: Code Compliance and Security. MTS strategically deploys the two divisions.

*Code Compliance* Code Compliance Inspectors (CCIs) are primarily responsible for enforcing ordinances and maintaining quality of life throughout the MTS Bus and Trolley system. CCIs ensure compliance with all MTS Ordinances, select Penal, Public Utility, Health and Safety, Business Professions, Municipal, and Department of Motor Vehicle Codes on MTS property and vehicles. CCIs are classified as public officers with powers of arrest, are non-sworn, and unarmed.

*Security* Security Officers are posted at various stations and perform system-wide patrols making arrests as necessary for those violations listed under the Code Compliance section. They assist the public with using the transit system by giving directions, controlling crowds, explaining rules governing the system and summoning medical assistance when required. MTS contracts for this service.

*Special Units* Teams of CCI and Security Officers comprise several special units deployed at MTS, including:

- The Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) K9 Explosives Detection units consist of officer/canine teams trained to detect explosive odors in a transit environment.
- Close Circuit TV (CCTV) teams monitor and review video from many of the Transit Centers as well as onboard buses and Trolleys.
- Bike Patrol teams patrol the Downtown San Diego corridor and nearby areas to augment station and patrol officer deployments.
- Operation Life Saver trained officers educate the public about rules and safety of public transit. The training is mostly geared toward school-aged children and is usually conducted in a classroom setting.



**INSPECTION** CCIs and Security inspect millions of the more than 81 million annual riders. Based on frequent inspections, it's estimated that nearly 98% of all riders have proper fares.

**COMPASS CARD** The majority of riders now purchase their monthly and multi-day passes on Compass Cards (Smart Cards with a computer chip). The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), MTS, and North County Transit District (NCTD) introduced Compass Cards in 2009. CCIs carry hand-held devices that "read" each Compass Card checked to determine if it is valid. Patrons must "tap" their Compass Card on the station platform validator before boarding a Trolley, or on or near the farebox when boarding an MTS Bus.

**FUNDING** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is instrumental in funding many of the security related projects completed and planned in the future at MTS. Grant money is used to improve the overall security of MTS facilities by expanding Closed Circuit Television systems at transit centers, onboard buses and light rail vehicles. Grants are also used to enhance security with improved lighting, cameras and access control at other MTS facilities. MTS continues to apply for grants to improve the overall safety and security of patrons and employees.

Additional funds available to MTS from the passing of State Proposition 1B have aided significantly in the completion of MTS security-related rail and bus operation projects.

