Los Angeles Metro
Case Study

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The County needed to stop fatal collisions at rail crossings. We got safety back on track.

Our photo enforcement solution for the Metro Blue Line light rail transit system monitors both left turns and straight-through movements.

Our photo enforcement program reduced motorist citations by 67 percent – and reduced yearly fatalities at gated and enforced crossings to zero.

The Challenge

Los Angeles has one of the busiest and largest light rail systems in the nation. In 1995, collisions between light rail trains and vehicles were a problem. But allocating more police officers to monitor crossings wasn't a practical long-term solution. Instead, to monitor 20 high-traffic crossings along 22 miles of rail between downtown Los Angeles and downtown Long Beach, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) turned to automated red-light photo enforcement.

The Solution

Our photo enforcement solution for the Metro Blue Line light rail transit system monitors both left turns and straight-through movements. Cameras capture the license plates of motorists who ignore lights and crossing arms, putting themselves and rail passengers at risk. Based on this photo evidence, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department issues citations.

Our services include complete end-to-end photo enforcement, including maintaining photo and detection equipment, violation processing, customer service and evidence management, public awareness campaigning and program management.

"The Blue Line is the longest commuter rail line in the country and one of the busiest," says Abdul Zohbi, manager of systems safety and photo enforcement project manager for Metro.

"The red light photo enforcement technology has played a significant role in reducing fatalities and promoting safety for Los Angeles County residents."

Success breeds success. When Metro's Orange Line busway opened in 2005, collisions were unusually frequent – as many as one per week. Recalling our effectiveness in reducing collisions on the Blue Line, Metro worked with us on an Orange Line solution. As a result, motorist citations on that line have declined by 27 percent at enforced crossings.

The Results

Safer crossings mean saving lives. Our photo enforcement solution has deterred bad driving behavior, reduced collisions and eliminated fatalities at the enforced intersections – all from a self-supporting program.

Since enforcement of rail crossings was instituted for Metro, our photo enforcement has led to:

- A 67 percent decline in citations since 1995
- A 62 percent decline in left-turn violations since left-turn enforcement began in 2004
- A reduction in fatalities from an average of 2.4 per year in 1990 to zero since 2006 at gated and enforced crossings.

Sector: Local Government, Transportation

Solution: Photo Enforcement

Client: Los Angeles Metro

Challenge: Reduce fatal collisions at light rail crossings without overtaxing resources

Results: No fatalities at gated and enforced crossings since 2006; program is self-supporting

"Nothing is more important than public safety. And the statistics clearly show that this technology has dramatically improved our law enforcement efforts in saving lives."

Captain Eric Hamilton,
Transit Services South Bureau,
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

You can learn more about us at www.acs-inc.com.

The Bottom Line

Home to 13 million residents dispersed over 4,000 square miles, the County of Los Angeles is a place where a lot of people move across a lot of land. Where cars and light rail travel through the same crossings, drivers were ignoring warnings and collisions were happening – with fatal consequences.

To address the problem, the County's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) called on us to monitor the busiest crossings. When our photo enforcement solution was implemented, behavior immediately changed. Citations have declined 67 percent. Collisions are rarer. And fatalities at gated and enforced crossings dropped to zero.

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