



## **MEDIA RELATIONS**

**METROLINK.**

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### **METROLINK HONORS MEMORY OF THOSE KILLED AND INJURED IN 2008 CHATSWORTH INCIDENT**

**LOS ANGELES** – Today, the Metrolink Board of Directors, employees, regional partners and law enforcement agencies honored and remembered the 25 people who lost their lives and the more than 100 who were injured in the Chatsworth Incident on Sept. 12, 2008 during a ceremony at Los Angeles Union Station. Metrolink also dedicated a safety exhibit to the victims and first responders in the Union Station passenger waiting area.

Ten years ago, a Metrolink passenger train collided head-on with a Union Pacific freight train in the Chatsworth area of the San Fernando Valley. An investigation found that the cause of the crash was the Metrolink engineer being distracted by texting on his cell phone and passing through a red “stop” signal.

“Today is a solemn day during which we remember those who died, those who were injured and their families,” said Metrolink Vice-Chair Brian Humphrey. “Today is also a day when we can point to the transformative changes that have occurred since then that give us confidence to say that such a tragedy will never happen again.”

Within days of the crash, elected officials in Washington D.C. began drafting new regulations and laws to protect rail passengers. In its final form, the federal law mandated new safety measures such as Positive Train Control (PTC) to prevent overspeeding, running through signals and train-on-train collisions. PTC is mandated on all rail systems by the end of 2018 and Metrolink had it installed systemwide in June 2015.

PTC is a Global Positioning System (GPS)-based technology that combines with wireless radio and computing technology to send up-to-date visual and audible information to notify crew members when a train must be slowed or stopped.

As part of its commemoration today, Metrolink installed an interactive memorial display in the passenger waiting area at Union Station. The installation pays homage to the people who were killed and injured, their families and first responders. As a tribute to

their enduring legacy, the display includes an interactive experience with a PTC simulator and descriptions of many other safety improvements on the Metrolink system.

The Rail Safety Exhibit is made possible through sponsorship by Wabtec ([www.wabtec.com](http://www.wabtec.com)), Metrolink's partner in PTC integration, and other sponsors including Rail Pros ([www.railpros.com](http://www.railpros.com)), LTK Engineering Services ([www.ltk.com](http://www.ltk.com)), Pacific Railway Enterprises Incorporated ([www.pacrail.com](http://www.pacrail.com)), and RSE Corporation ([www.rsecorp.com](http://www.rsecorp.com)).

In addition to PTC, Metrolink purchased Hyundai Rotem Cab Cars featuring Crash Energy Management, a state-of-the-art collision-absorption technology, and installed inward and outward facing cameras to monitor aspects of rail operations.

"Safety is Metrolink's top priority and maintaining that dedication takes daily focus. Along with employing cutting-edge safety technology, developing a safety culture with a 'safety first' mindset is absolutely vital." said Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metrolink Director Kathryn Barger.

As part of adopting a culture of safety, Metrolink introduced new technologies and safety innovations in the months and years following the Chatsworth Incident. However, the agency faced challenges adopting the technologies due to the low number of experts qualified to install the system.

"At the time we were working on PTC, there were not many people in the country we could call upon for guidance for installation and operation," said Metrolink CEO Art Leahy. "In many cases, Metrolink personnel had to write the book for processes that are now industry standard."

As a way to pass on hard-acquired expertise to industry peers, Metrolink regularly offers free "open houses" that are given quarterly to help improve rail safety nationwide.

For more information about Metrolink, please visit [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).

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## **ABOUT METROLINK ([www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com))**

Metrolink is Southern California's regional commuter rail service in its 25th year of operation. Metrolink is governed by The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), a joint powers authority made up of an 11-member board representing the transportation commissions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. Metrolink operates seven routes through a six-county, 538 route-mile network. Metrolink's passengers travel approximately 441 million miles each year, making Metrolink the second busiest public transportation provider in Southern California. Metrolink is the third largest commuter rail agency in the United States based on directional route miles and the eighth largest based on annual ridership.

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