

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: January 30, 2006

TO: The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall
Attention: Honorable Wendy Greuel, Transportation Committee

FROM: *John E. Fisher*
for Frances T. Banerjee, Interim General Manager
Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: METRO ORANGE LINE SAFETY ISSUES (CF 05-2256)

RECOMMENDATION

Note and file this report as it is submitted for information only.

SUMMARY

Council motion 05-2256 requested the Department of Transportation Department of Transportation working with MTA and Los Angeles Police Department's Valley Traffic Division report every 30 days on any safety issues that arise during implementation of the Metro Orange Line Busway.

DISCUSSION

The Metro Orange Line Busway opened on October 29, 2005, and has been in continuous operation for three months. During the first two weeks of operation, six traffic accidents involving MTA buses and automobiles occurred. Subsequently, DOT, MTA, LAPD and LASD implemented a number of enhancements to increase safety and reduce the potential for accidents. These included additional signage, improved traffic signal timing, additional pavement messages, new electronic signs, the temporary deployment of Traffic Officers, increased police enforcement and an enhanced public awareness campaign. As a result, the number of accidents has been steadily declining, and none has occurred in the past four weeks. The number of near misses observed by MTA drivers shows an overall declining trend, although there was a slight increase in mid-January 2006. The attached graphs show the Near Miss and Accident trends.

Currently, the MTA and DOT are working on the installation of a photo red-light system at twelve Busway intersections to assist in the enforcement at these locations. DOT has met with the MTA's contractor in the field and will provide expeditious design review as

the plans are completed. DOT will use one of its construction contractors to install the photo enforcement equipment. It is anticipated that this work will begin in March 2006 and be completed in May 2006.

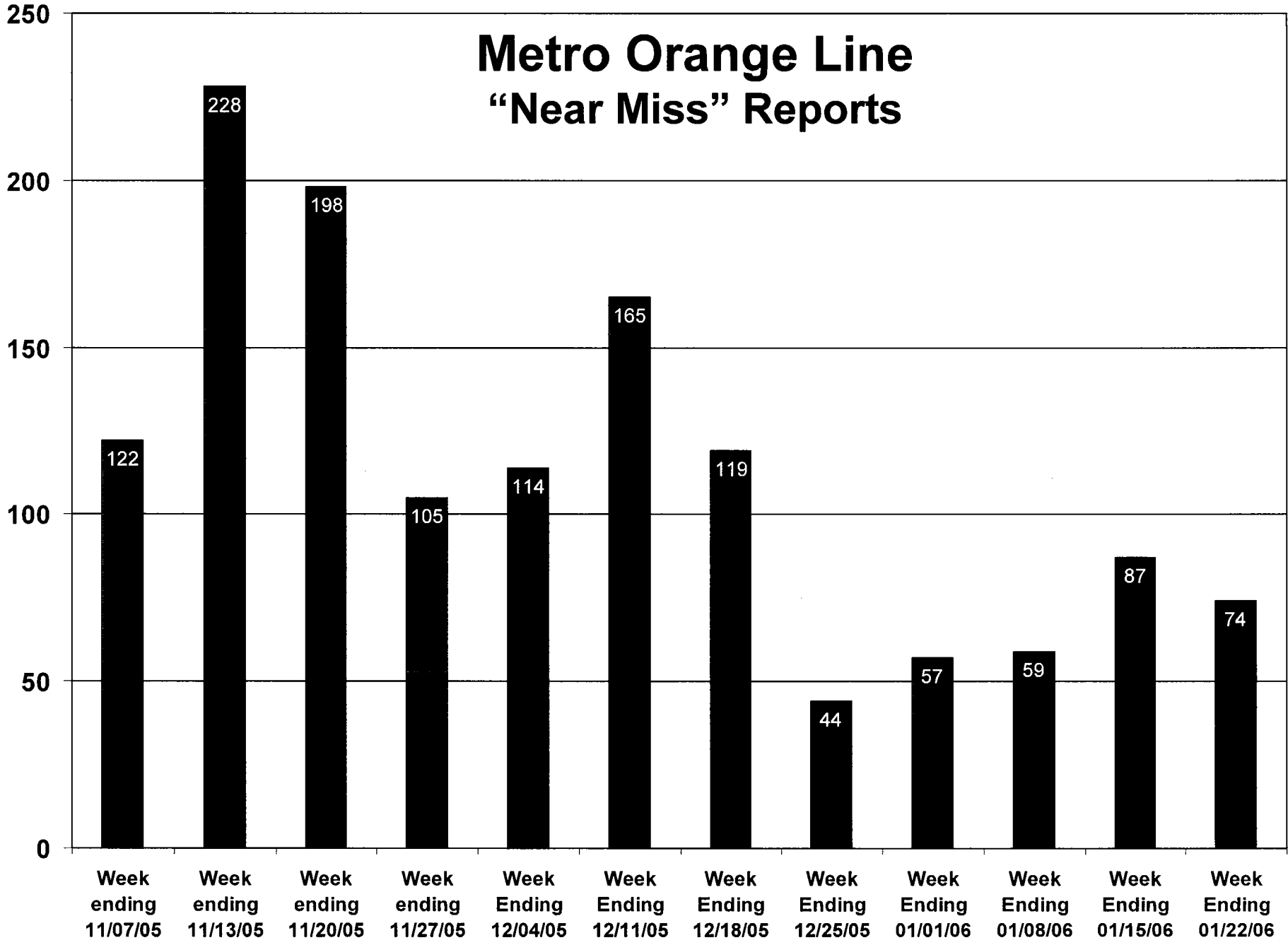
Another safety enhancement that was identified and is currently being designed is the installation of additional illuminated "BUS" warning signs. DOT has identified 23 locations where installation of these signs would provide enhanced visibility. Due to the long lead time required to manufacture the signs and poles to which they are attached, installation is planned starting in May 2006 and be completed in July 2006.

The MTA has produced a public safety educational DVD about the Metro Orange Line. This interactive DVD contains numerous safety tips about using and crossing the Busway and is being distributed to schools, community centers and the public. DOT will provide a copy of the DVD to ITA and requested that portions of it be aired on the LA City View Channel 35.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Department of Transportation has spent approximately \$175,000 to date making safety improvements and monitoring operations on the Busway. These charges will be reimbursed by the MTA.

Metro Orange Line "Near Miss" Reports



Metro Orange Line Accident History

