Transit Crimes and Policing
What is street harassment?

Street harassment is unwanted interactions in public between strangers that are motivated by a victim's gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, weight, or (dis)ability.
Street Harassment & Public Transit

- Nationally, public transportation cases account for 20% of harassment incidents.\(^2\)
Street Harassment video

- https://youtu.be/tUevV_Nsmzs-
Type of harassment experienced on Twin Cities public transportation according to data from *Hollaback!* 2014 survey

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Metro Transit Customer Stories

Lindsay’s Story (Aug 8, 2014)
“…he put his hand on my thigh and began rubbing up and down…the bus was full and NO ONE reacted…”

Greta’s Story (Apr 19, 2015)
“…I’m in constant fear when I’m only trying to get home from work. That shouldn’t happen. ..”

CH’s Story (July 4, 2013)
“…The driver didn’t intervene, but she may have been frightened of him — I’ve noticed that harassers often escalate when a female driver reprimands them…”
Problem Solving

• SARA

ASSESSMENT
Did the response work?

SCANNING
What is the problem?

SARA

RESPONSE
What can we do to improve the problem?

ANALYSIS
What is contributing to the problem?
Scan

• New York

• Anecdotal Stories:
  Native woman
  Somali Muslim women
  Trans gender women
Analysis

• Customer survey
• Crime Mapping
Customer Service Report - Bus

In the past year, 15% of bus riders experienced unwanted sexual contact, comments or touching.

- Weekend riders are significantly more likely to report such experiences.

Nearly one-fifth (17%) say that fear for their safety has kept them from using Metro Transit.

Non-rush and weekend riders are significantly more likely to be deterred by this fear.

In the past year while using Metro Transit, have you ever experienced unwanted sexual contact, comments, touching and/or exposure? Has fear for your safety and security ever stopped you from using Metro Transit? N=3,818/3,779

* Statistically significant difference between comparisons
Customer Service Report - Light Rail

- Across lines and week parts, riders were equally likely to have experienced unwanted sexual contact or comments.

**Experienced Unwanted Sexual Contact/Comments/Touching**

- Yes: 14%
- No: 86%

**Fear for Safety/Security Stopped You from Using Metro Transit**

- Yes: 18%
- No: 82%

- Nearly one-fifth (18%) say that fear for safety has prevented them from using Metro Transit.

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In the past year while using Metro Transit, have you ever experienced unwanted sexual contact, comments, touching and/or exposure?

Has fear for your safety and security every stopped you from using Metro Transit?

N=2,990/2,984

* Statistically significant difference between comparisons
- BCTC
- DID-Warehouse
- Franklin
- Lake ST
- Uptown
- Chicago Lake
- MOA
Responses

• Increase awareness
• Prioritize Investigative cases
• Directed patrol and Decoy operation
• Enhanced Crime victim service
  • Text to TCC
Transportation Peer Efforts

Chicago Transit Authority

Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority

Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

IT'S OFF LIMITS.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT
is unwanted touching, 
compliments & gestures.
And it's off limits on Metro.

IF YOU EXPERIENCE IT OR SEE IT — REPORT IT.
Call 418.950.SAFE
Street harassment is...

- whistling
- flashing
- groping
- unwanted comments
- following
- sexist, racist, homophobic or other slurs
- leering

not okay

I see someone being harassed on the bus but I’m not sure what to do...

Your safety is the #1 priority. It’s okay not to do anything if you don’t feel safe. If you do choose to take action, here are a few ideas:

- Check in with the person being harassed - ask if they’re okay or if they need any help
- Confront the harasser and tell them what they’re doing is not okay
- Create a distraction by asking for directions or offering the person being harassed your seat
Directed and Decoy Patrol
TEXT TO TCC (Transit Communication Center)

See Something - Say Something!
Assessment

• Goal: Reduce occurrences and increase reporting of street harassment, to aid victims hold perpetrators accountable.

• Increased reporting
• Arrests, Trespasses and Convictions
• Better victim services
Thank You

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