

Public Safety on Transit

In 2022, the Metropolitan Council endorsed the Safety & Security Action Plan. Developed with input from riders and staff, the plan describes 40 actions aimed at improving conditions on transit, supporting employees, and building stronger partnerships. Since the plan was endorsed, Metro Transit has:

Safety & Security ACTION PLAN

- Increased wages for police officers and Community Service Officers (CSOs) and begun offering CSOs up to \$18,000 in tuition reimbursement
- Contracted for supplemental security officers to be at busy boarding locations for up to two years, beginning June 1, 2023
- Contracted with A Mother's Love and Radias Health for dedicated, ongoing support services
- Established stronger working relationships with peer agencies, such as the Airport, Bloomington and Minneapolis police departments
- Expanded the hours during which real-time cameras are monitored
- Initiated facility improvements at several locations, including the Vertical Circulation Building and Lake Street/Midtown Station
- Continued to support the Metro Transit Homeless Action Team, which direct people to emergency shelter and can refer people to the Met Council for federal housing vouchers

Transportation Bill

The Transportation Bill signed by Gov. Tim Walz on May 24, 2023, includes several provisions aimed at improving the rider experience, including:

- **The Transit Safety Intervention Project (TSIP).** TSIP is a coordinated, high-visibility effort to provide enhanced social services and Code of Conduct enforcement on transit, led by Metro Transit with participation from state and local partners and community-based social service organizations. The \$2 million program begins on June 1, 2023, and will continue for at least 12 weeks, with outreach events at the Target Field, Lake Street/Midtown, Mall of America, Central and Union Depot stations. Following a period of outreach activities, Metro Transit police and other law enforcement partners will work together to increase visibility on transit.
 - Metro Transit will issue a request for proposals the week of June 5. Community-based groups that are interested in submitting proposals should visit the “Contracting Opportunities” page at metro council.org.
- **The Transit Rider Investment Program (TRIP).** TRIP authorizes the creation of a program that will allow non-police personnel to issue administrative citations for fare non-compliance. These citations would replace misdemeanor citations which can only be issued by sworn police officers and are rarely prosecuted. The administrative citation program will be instituted after policies and procedures are adopted by the Met Council.

- **A requirement that the Met Council adopt and prominently advertise a Code of Conduct**, following a public engagement process. The Code of Conduct outlines prohibited and illegal activities that will be enforced by transit police.
- **The establishment of cleaning standards for transit vehicles and facilities.**
- **A ¾-cent metro-area sales tax.** The metro-area sales tax that takes effect on Oct. 1, 2023, will provide a predictable revenue source for transit operations and maintenance, including investments in public safety.

By the numbers

- 127,154 average weekday ridership YTD
- 107 full-time police officers (out of 171 authorized)
- 41 part-time officers (out of 80 authorized)
- 15 Community Service Officers (out of 70 authorized)
- 22,643 calls for service in Q1 2023, (+9% compared to Q1 2022)

More information

Updates on the Safety & Security Action Plan are provided quarterly at metrotransit.org/publicsafety. Crime data is available at metrotransit.org/performance. Additional reporting is required in the Transportation Omnibus.

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