

Metro Transit Police Department

K-9 patrol teams

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The Metro Transit Police Department currently has a team of eight K-9 teams that are a presence on the transit system, including light rail vehicles, buses, and the Northstar Commuter train. In 2021, the K-9 unit focused its Peace Officers Standards Training approved training curriculum internally, helping the unit's K-9s become more familiar with working on a transit system. This also allows them to be more familiar with an environment rich with riders and Metro Transit employees.

Eight K-9 team members:

Officer Pete Eshenaur/Riddick
Officer Kevin McCabe/Sky
Officer Leonard Mitchell/Kaide
Officer Bev Rodriguez/Bristol
Officer Timbutu Wilkerson/Luna
Officer Larry Wright/Rocky
Officer Peter Yang/ Brady
Officer Txu Yang/Bosco

Metro Transit teams are made up of Labrador Retrievers who are experts in detection of explosives. The move to Labrador Retrievers took hold in 2020.

The Metro Transit K-9 unit first began in 2006. The current K-9 unit is the department's largest by two dogs. The growth was necessitated by the expansion of light rail and Bus Rapid Transit. For three months, the teams are trained at Metro Transit facilities including garages, stations, and trains, allowing them to familiarize themselves with working in an environment with the sounds, sights, and smells of a transit environment. Training continues throughout the year and certifies with the United States Police Canine Association annually.

Metro Transit's K-9s are not used for apprehending fleeing suspects. Instead, MTPD uses them to sniff for explosives and guns and can be seen at highly visible events including transit stations during events such as the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings, Minnesota United, and University of Minnesota Games.

