



Metra cops increase foot patrols

Metra announced a new safety initiative last month that is resulting in a more visible police presence on all the train lines we patrol. The goal is to deter crime and continue to provide a safe and peaceful journey for commuters.

Police are doing more foot patrols, checking parking lots, walking on platforms, talking with riders, riding the trains and talking to conductors during rush-hour and off-peak times. For instance, they reported nearly 200 foot patrols on trains, in parking lots and on platforms over a three-day period in May.

The department is comprised of about 100 full-time sworn officers whose primary function is to protect Metra passengers, employees and assets and to enforce criminal laws, traffic laws and ordinances that directly or indirectly relate to Metra.

Passenger safety is a priority for the department. It pays special attention to railroad crossings in an attempt to prevent train accidents with vehicles or individuals. Metra Police also work in cooperation with local authorities to reduce or attempt to prevent hazardous conditions or blatant violations of the law which result in unsafe conditions.



CHAIR CHAT

Rolling back 10-ride price tops list of Metra priorities

Metra has launched an aggressive effort to reset our priorities to better serve our riders – starting with a plan to roll back the price of the 10-ride ticket so it once again equals the cost of nine one-way fares.



Brad O'Halloran
Chairman

Assuming the full Metra Board of Directors agrees, we hope to also reform and enhance the Metra Police

Department with the advice of a new blue-ribbon panel; leverage up to a billion dollars in bonding authority to tackle capital needs, and take on several other initiatives to move us forward.

Increased reliability, a renewed commitment to the safety and security of our riders and a reinvestment in our infrastructure – these are the priorities in the days ahead.

I will ask the Metra board at its next meeting in August to restore the discount in the price of the 10-ride ticket. The discount was eliminated in February so

that the cost of the 10-ride ticket equals the cost of 10 one-way fares, up from the cost of nine one-way fares, but the change resulted in a sales decline, hurting revenue. Rolling back the 10-ride ticket to the previous price is the least we can do for our customers.

I am also pleased to announce that Orland Park Police Chief and former Secret Service Agent Tim McCarthy has agreed to lead a blue-ribbon panel to review reforms and recommendations to enhance the Metra
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