

## Metro Transit Interactive Text Service for Public Safety

Chad Loeffler, Manager, Transit Control Center Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting May 2, 2018



## Text to TCC

- Goals of Project
  - Safety
    - Increases ability for customers to report unsafe situations to Transit Police
    - Interactive two-way text messaging system allows passengers to communicate discreetly without fear of retaliation
  - Innovation
    - This project moves beyond the TCC's traditional means of receiving messages via telephone and bus operator report
  - Equity
    - Using SMS ensures those without resources to purchase a smart phone are able to communicate



## Timeline

- 2017 Q2:
  - Completed request for information to determine what is available on the market
  - Created RFP requirements and Proposal
- 2017 Q3:
  - Recommendation committee selected vendor and notice to proceed
- 2017 Q4:
  - Implementation of two-way interactive texting via 10-digit phone number and Metro Transit app
  - Launch date: December 18, 2017



## **Contacting Metro Transit via Text**

- SMS Text 612.900.0411
- Use Metro Transit app

### Text Message Today 8:52 AM

I am on green line and person is walking up and down aisle using profanity, looks like he needs help

Thank you for contacting Metro Transit. If this is an emergency please call 911 if able. Otherwise we will respond momentarily.

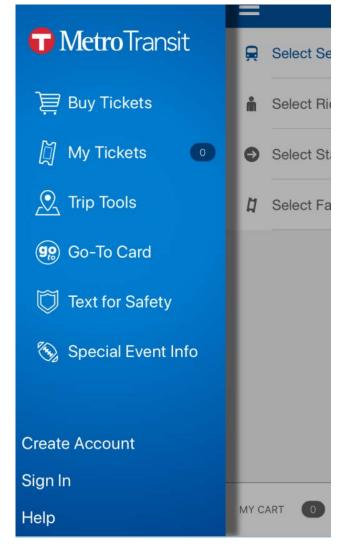
Can you tell me what train number you're on? It should be near the ceiling at the center or on the wall at the front/back. -Tyler

Car <u>225A</u>

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Can you describe the person? What is their race, age, height?

Text Message





## **Customer Outreach**

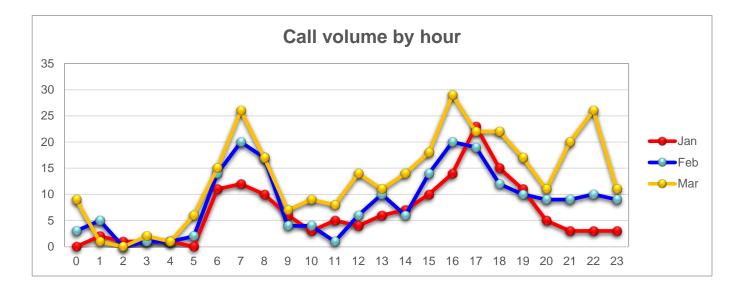
- Onboard Placards and Signs
- News Release, Metro Transit Website

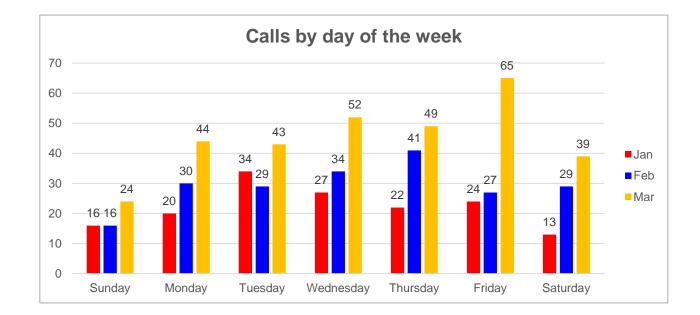
# For all emergencies, call 911.

# If you feel unsafe or see suspicious/threatening behavior **TEXT 612-900-0411**

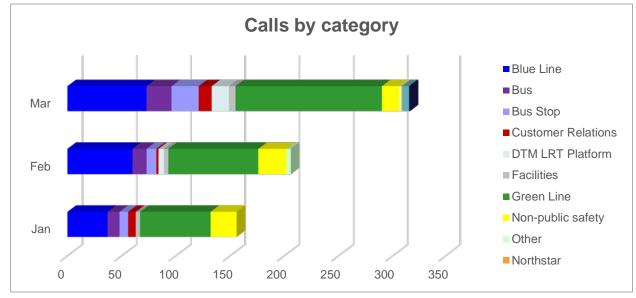
Messaging and data rates may apply; refer to your wireless plan for more details.

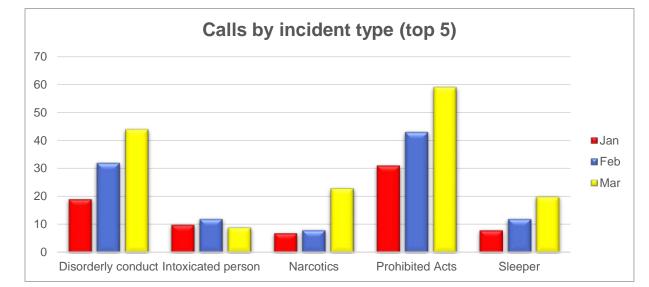
## **Text to TCC Stats**





Where and Why are people texting?





## Example 1 – Smoking on the Green Line

- **Guest**: There is someone smoking on the eastbound green line train currently just past prospect park, car 226B 2/22/2018 5:49pm | Green Line
- Cain B: Thank you for contacting Metro Transit. If this is an emergency please call 911 if able. Otherwise we will respond momentarily. 2/22/2018 5:49pm | Green Line
- Cain B: Can you describe the person? What is their race, age, height? -Cain 2/22/2018 5:50pm | Green Line
- Guest: 2 people, African American, 30s 2/22/2018 5:50pm | Green Line
- Cain B: Are they male or female? -Cain 2/22/2018 5:51pm | Green Line
- **Guest**: 1 male 1 female, in the very front of the car with heavy coats and groceries 2/22/2018 5:51pm | Green Line
- Cain B: What color are the coats? -Cain 2/22/2018 5:52pm | Green Line
- Guest: One dark blue, one medium brown 2/22/2018 5:52pm | Green Line
- Cain B: which is the male wearing? -Cain 2/22/2018 5:53pm | Green Line
- **Guest**: Male is in dark blue, woman in brown 2/22/2018 5:53pm | Green Line
- Cain B: Is there anything else that will help identify them? Hats? Pants? Bags of any sort? -Cain 2/22/2018 5:55pm | Green Line
- **Guest**: They have a couple bags of groceries on the seat in front of them, I can't see anything else from where I'm seated 2/22/2018 5:56pm | Green Line
- Cain B: Thanks, you've been very helpful. Can I have your name in case officers need more info? -Cain 2/22/2018 5:56pm | Green Line
- Guest: My name is XXXXX XXXXXXX, I appreciate the quick response 2/22/2018 5:57pm | Green Line
- Note from Cain B: MC180222-009647 Prohibited Acts 2/22/2018 5:58pm | Green Line
- Cain B: Thanks Libby. If you have another issue or the situation changes, text us again. -Cain 2/22/2018
  Solution State Stat

a service of the Metropolitan Council

## Example 2 – Person with a Gun

- **Guest**: Guy on Train with Gun/Dope, 2/20/2018 12:48pm | Green Line
- **Tyler S**: Thank you for contacting Metro Transit. If this is an emergency please call 911 if able. Otherwise we will respond momentarily. 2/20/2018 12:49pm | Green Line
- **Tyler S**: Can you tell me what train number you're on? It should be near the ceiling at the center or on the wall at the front/back. -Tyler 2/20/2018 12:49pm | Green Line
- **Guest**: 208A 2/20/2018 12:49pm | Green Line
- Tyler S: And where is your train now? -Tyler 2/20/2018 12:50pm | Green Line
- Guest: Boo Leather Jacket, blk good, heading to Central Station 2/20/2018 12:51pm | Green Line
- Tyler S: Is he threatening anyone with the gun? Or is it holstered? -Tyler 2/20/2018 12:52pm | Green Line
- **Guest**: Blk leather jacket,hooded 2/20/2018 12:52pm | Green Line
- **Guest**: Central Station 2/20/2018 12:52pm | Green Line
- **Tyler S**: Can you describe the person? What is their race, age, height? -Tyler 2/20/2018 12:52pm | Green Line
- **Tyler S**: Please answer these questions as soon as you can. If you're able, please call 911. Tyler 2/20/2018 12:54pm | Green Line
- **Guest**: I'm off train, 2/20/2018 12:54pm | Green Line
- Guest: To late 2/20/2018 12:54pm | Green Line
- Note from Tyler S: RP called by #54 2/20/2018 12:57pm | Green Line
- Note from Tyler S: MC180220-009196 Weapons Call | Green Line





## **Customer Feedback**

 "I really appreciate being able to connect with support and metro transit police without having to call and jeopardize my physical safety." -12/21/17 @ 8:55am

Green Line customer reporting male smoking onboard train

- I appreciate the quick response 2/22/2018 5:57pm | Green Line

Customer reporting smoking onboard Green line

 Thank you. I'm glad to know that there's a way to get help without having to call 911 3/15/2018 9:48pm Customer reporting 3 people drunk and yelling on Green line





# **Questions, Comments?**

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