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Press Release

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[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Police Remind Automobile Drivers and Passengers to Buckle Up for Safety – Or Face a Ticket

MTA PD to Participate in "Buckle Up New York - Click It or Ticket" Enforcement Effort; Patrols Will Target Railroad Grade Crossings

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department today announced that it planned a late May / early June law enforcement effort aimed at encouraging safe driving practices at railroad grade crossings. The effort is being held in conjunction with the New York State Police "Buckle Up New York - Click It or Ticket" program being held from May 19 - June 1, 2009 to enhance enforcement of seatbelt use laws.

"Safety of our customers and of the general public is always our top priority," said MTA Interim Executive Director and CEO Helena E. Williams. "At railroad grade crossings, safe driving means many things: obeying posted speed limits, observing the flashing lights and bells of closing gates, obeying instructions not to pass a gate that is down, listening for train horns, and looking both ways before crossing. It also means ensuring that all vehicle occupants are wearing their seatbelt."

"Motorists need to be particularly cautious around railroad grade crossings," said Michael R. Coan, Chief of the MTA Police Department. "Our officers will be out on patrol at grade crossings to make sure that motorists are operating their vehicles in the safest possible manner. Of course, one of most important things a driver or a passenger in a car can do to promote safety is to wear a seat belt, which is required by law."

Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death in the nation and the number one cause of death for people between the ages of 2 and 34. Yet, nationwide, 18 percent of all drivers and passengers - approximately one in five - do not regularly wear seat belts.

The statistics are clear - not buckling up increases the risk of being seriously injured or killed in a motor vehicle crash. In 2006, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 42,642 people died on our nation's highways. Among those killed, nearly 16,000 - around 37 percent - were not buckled up.

"With all the reminders and all we know about the inherent dangers of not buckling up, it is unconscionable that anyone today would drive down the road without wearing a safety belt. We in law enforcement have no patience for such carelessness, and during this Buckle Up New York law enforcement mobilization, Troopers, Deputies and Police Officers across this state will take a zero-tolerance approach to these violations," said New York State Police Superintendent Harry J. Corbitt. "All motorists should be forewarned, whether city or suburb, dirt road or highway, day or night, it's click it, or ticket. It's a habit that can save your life," he added.

Increasing seat belt and child safety seat use is the most effective way to reduce crash-related injuries and fatalities. The "Buckle Up New York - Click It or Ticket" enforcement period is a statewide, zero-tolerance enforcement effort coordinated by the State Police and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to increase safety restraint use in New York State.

Driver safety tips and information are available by visiting the DMV's web site (www.nysdmv.com) or the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee web site (www.safeny.com).