

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

177-4  
R-409

ISSUED: May 26, 1982

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Forwarded to:

Mr. John D. Simpson  
President  
New York City Transit Authority  
370 Jay Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

R-82-22 and -23

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On April 10, 1977, the National Transportation Safety Board issued two recommendations designed to improve safety for passengers moving between cars on rail rapid transit systems. On September 14, 1977, Federal Railroad Administration personnel, the American Public Transit Association, and various rail rapid transit representatives met to discuss ways to reduce the likelihood of injuries to passengers moving between rail rapid transit cars.

The National Transportation Safety Board has just completed a special investigation regarding accidents involving passengers between coupled cars on the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA).<sup>1/</sup> The special investigation examined as a group the fatal accidents that previously had been investigated individually by the Board. Since the issuance of our previous recommendations and during the 5-year period of the study, a total of 48 passenger fatalities were reported by rail rapid transit systems; 25 (about 52 percent) were between-car passenger fatalities. During 1981, 9 of the 11 passenger fatalities were between-car passenger fatalities. Eight of these occurred on the NYCTA system.

The Board is concerned that such accidents will continue unless additional corrective action is instituted in the transit industry. The Board believes that the NYCTA should change its policy as it relates to passenger movement between cars, limiting movement between cars and use of the between-car area by passengers to emergency circumstances only. The Board believes that the NYCTA should notify the public of this policy change through an educational and/or promotional campaign and change the signing on the end doors to reflect the new policy. The Board found as a result of its investigation that fatalities have not occurred on those systems that prohibit passenger movement between cars except in an emergency.

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the New York City Transit Authority:

Revise current policy which permits passenger movement between cars to prohibit passenger movement between cars except in an emergency and install conforming end-door signs. (Class II, Priority Action)  
(R-82-22)

<sup>1/</sup> For more detailed information, read Special Investigation Report: "Accidents Involving Passengers Between Coupled Cars on the New York City Transit Authority," (NTSB-SIR-82-1).

Institute enhanced educational surveillance and enforcement programs to prevent passengers from moving between coupled cars in transit service except in emergency. (Class II, Priority Action) (R-82-23)

BURNETT, Chairman, GOLDMAN, Vice Chairman, and McADAMS and BURSLEY, Members, concurred in these recommendations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Burnett".

By: Jim Burnett  
Chairman