

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AI-4
R-409A

ISSUED: May 26, 1982

Forwarded to:

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1225 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
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SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

R-82-24

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 (APTA), and various rapid transit representatives met to discuss ways to reduce the likelihood of injuries to passengers moving between rail rapid transit cars. The Board is deeply appreciative of the effort APTA has expended to reduce hazards in this area.

Recently, the Safety Board conducted a special investigation concerning accidents involving passengers between coupled cars on the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA). ^{1/} This 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 these accidents will continue unless additional corrective action is instituted in the transit industry. No accidents have occurred on the Port Authority Transit Corporation or the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority system, but policy, end door signing, and car design features are similar in some respects to those in the systems that have experienced between-car fatal accidents.

As a result of its special investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the American Public Transit Association:

^{1/} 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).

Notify member systems of the problems identified in the Safety Board's Special Investigation Report and encourage them to conduct continuing systemwide reviews of procedures and practices to eliminate residual hazards with regard to between-car passageway safety. (Class II, Priority Action) (R-82-24)

BURNETT, Chairman, GOLDMAN, Vice Chairman, and McADAMS and BURSLEY, Members, concurred in this recommendation.


By: Jim Burnett
Chairman