



July 10, 2009

Dear Resident:

The Vasona Light Rail Line has provided safe, reliable service in San Jose and Campbell since 2005. Prior to the opening of this light rail line, VTA worked with residents, community groups and local schools providing safety information for riding on, as well as driving or walking near light rail. Your community has adapted well to the presence of light rail, both in riding the trains and practicing safe behaviors when driving vehicles or walking near the rail line. I am writing as a reminder for you and your community to diligently exercise caution and safe behavior around our rail facilities.

In recent weeks there were two serious accidents involving trains and pedestrians on the Vasona Line. We are saddened for the individuals, families and friends of the people involved in these unfortunate accidents. These events provide a grim reminder to all of us that maintaining awareness around rail tracks and following proper safety precautions are of paramount importance.

On the back of this letter is essential rail safety information we urge you to share with your family, friends and colleagues. We hope that by following proper safety precautions and maintaining awareness around the tracks, future accidents can be avoided.

At light rail crossings and stations, VTA provides traffic gates, warning bells and, where appropriate, pedestrian gates to protect the public and VTA employees. When the crossing gates are down or warning bells are ringing, before you approach the tracks, wait for all trains to pass, for the gates to go back up and for the bells to stop ringing. Look both ways before crossing. Trains travel in both directions and a train leaving a crossing may be followed closely by another train traveling in the opposite direction. Because a light rail train is large and heavy (weighing an average of 50 tons), it is moving faster than it appears and cannot stop as quickly as a car or even a bus.

VTA is a committed community partner, working with you and your neighbors to keep everyone safe in and around the Vasona Light Rail Line. We are available to come to your neighborhood or community group meeting, to your workplace, to your school or to any forum to discuss safety awareness around VTA operations. Please call VTA Customer Service at (408) 321-2300 or e-mail customer.service@vta.org for more information or to schedule a presentation.

Thank you for your continued support of VTA. Have a happy and safe summer season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael T. Burns". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael T. Burns
General Manager