

Bus Turn Alert Audio: “Pedestrians, bus is turning”

Ed Abel, Jr., Manager of Operational Safety, SEPTA: “One of the things that we are seeing not only in our day to day operation but we’re seeing in the news on a regular basis is that people are distracted all the time now. Whether it’s looking at their phones, texting, looking at news on the Internet, they have ear buds in, using it for listening to music, they’re preoccupied with their life and what they’re doing and their not paying attention to what their surroundings are.

As part of our safe choice initiative that we have for our customers, we have not expanded it into a new bus alerting system. What the system is designed to do is give them both an audio and visual alert that a bus is making a turn, whether it be a left or a right turn, to give them an added awareness there’s a bus is in the area.

The nice thing about the system is that the operator doesn’t have to do anything out of the norm other than his normal operations. When he turns the steering wheel it activates the strobe on side of the bus as well as the audio alarm, letting the pedestrians know the bus is turning so it both gives you an audio and visual warning that the bus is in the area and it’s making a turn.”

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