

Are there conditions that affect crime?

Conditions That Affect Crime	Examples	Effect on Crime
Station Design	Lighting, fencing, surveillance, cameras, security hardware	Discourages
Land Use	Bars, liquor shops, pawnshops, abandoned buildings	Attracts
Neighborhood Conditions	Deteriorating buildings, graffiti, litter, vagrants, prostitutes	Attracts
Population Characteristics	Population density, income levels, age composition, education, unemployment	Attracts

What do studies say about light rail and crime rates?

Literature shows that transit crime is highly correlated with the general crime rates for the neighborhood in which the station is located.

There have only been few studies that examine the affects of transit on crime in neighborhoods. The results indicate that light rail does not increase crime in the area around stations.

- ▶ A study of the introduction of the Green Line in Los Angeles reveals that “Overall, most station neighborhoods have either experienced no change or have witnessed a reduction in crime after the introduction of the Green Line”.
- ▶ An analysis of burglary trends before and after the opening of two MARTA stations in suburban Atlanta found no evidence to suggest that burglaries have increased after the opening of the stations.
- ▶ A study of crime patterns before and after the opening of the Blue Line in Los Angeles found that in most station areas light rail has reduced crime incidence in the immediate station neighborhood.