

## Encouraging Bike Commuters... MTA Funding 8.9-Mile Bike Path, Racks and Lockers for Rail Stations



(Aug. 11) Led by Mayor Richard Riordan, a troupe of bicyclists took an inaugural ride, Wednesday, on a newly opened 1.3-mile segment of the Los Angeles River Trail – a bikeway and pedestrian path largely funded by the MTA.

To date, the MTA has provided \$9.2 million for five LA River bikeway projects stretching from Riverside Drive near Griffith Park to downtown LA. The projects include 8.9 miles of bike and pedestrian path and three bridges.

Another 1.8-mile segment from Barclay Street near Elysian Park to downtown LA, requires additional construction funding. The money for the projects is programmed by the MTA from federal transportation enhancement funds.

### Funds for bike racks, lockers

The LA River Trail may be the most visible element of the MTA's support of bike commuters and enthusiasts, but the agency also has funded bike racks for Metro Buses and is adding more bike racks and bike lockers at Metro Rail stations.

The MTA recently spent \$27,000 for 16 bike lockers with capacity for 29 bicycles. The lockers will be placed at six Metro Red Line stations along Vermont Avenue, Hollywood Boulevard and at the North Hollywood Station. Two eight-space bike racks for the Universal City Station and four eight-space racks for North Hollywood also are on order.

Once the new racks and lockers are in place, the Metro Rail system will have secure accommodations for more than 650 bicycles. The racks and lockers will be especially appreciated by bike commuters who use the North Hollywood station. At least 30 bikes have been secured to fences, trees and post by commuters using the station each day.

"The MTA is doing this to encourage people to commute by bike," said Lynn Goldsmith, the public affairs officer responsible for coordinating MTA bicycle projects. "If people can lock up their bikes, we think there's a growth potential in getting people to ride their bikes from home to a transit center where they can board a bus or a train."

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