

Drive for Freeway Monorail Under Way

Backing of Chambers Sought

MISSION HILLS—A Valley-born movement is trying to gain the support of all the chambers of commerce in the Los Angeles metropolitan area for a mass rapid transit system using monorails built high above the city's freeways.

Paul Burkhart a member of the board of the North and East Valley Associated Chambers of Commerce and vice president of the Valley-wide Better Government Committee, said Wednesday he has begun making the telephone calls and writing the letters necessary to getting the project under way.

Burkhart proposed a try at gaining chamber support of the transit system at a meeting of the North and East board recently and received the board's approval.

Seeks Support

He plans to communicate with the chambers in the metropolitan area and ask they go on record supporting the plan.

If a sufficient number indicate approval, he said, a committee can be formed that can act for all the chambers, conduct a feasibility study of the monorails-above-the-freeways plan, then present it to the proper city, county and state agencies with the massive support of the chambers behind it.

The center strips of the freeways, Burkhart said, would be ideal for overhead monorail systems.

Cites Savings

"Such a system would result in considerable savings," Burkhart said, "because the rights of way have already been acquired."

In addition, he said, it would "result in speedier construction — whether it is built publicly or privately."

The North and East board, he continued, has no desire to direct or govern the project.

"All we want to do is get it started," Burkhart said. "Unified action is the only way we are going to make headway."