

# Irate Monorail Backers Rap Transit Authority

## Challenge MTA Claim Overhead Systems More Costly and Less Safe Than Two Rails

By Ray Hebert, Times Urban Affairs Editor

Angry monorail backers accused the Metropolitan Transit Authority Tuesday of adding to the confusion surrounding rapid transit proposals for Los Angeles.

Disturbed by "derogatory" MTA statements, a spokesman for Alweg Rapid Transit Systems challenged the authority's claim that monorail is more expensive, less safe and less flexible than a standard duo rail system.

### Backed by Bonelli

At the same time, Supervisor Frank G. Bonelli came to the defense of Alweg and its competitor, Goodell Monorail. Both have offered to build so-called privately financed transit systems here.

Bonelli told an Assembly investigating committee in the State Building that the MTA has a "negative attitude."

"The authority believes that only its backbone route (a duo rail system), requiring

tax subsidy, will stand up," he said.

Bonelli was invited to sit with the Assembly Interim Committee on Transportation and Commerce during its fact-finding inquiry into this area's stalled search for a suitable rapid transit system.

### Scheduled Hearings

Assemblyman Tom Carrell (D-San Fernando), committee chairman, scheduled the hearings at Bonelli's suggestion after the MTA rejected offers by Alweg and Goodell to build overhead systems.

The supervisor told Carrell's committee that any tax proposal, as advocated by the MTA, would "go down the drain" if it were put to a vote of the people.

"Anything short of reconstruction of the MTA is not going to give Los Angeles the rapid transit system it needs," Bonelli declared.

Later, he backed up his

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