



# **NEWS**

OCTOBER 24, 1994

**CONTACT: STEVE CHESSER/JIM SMART  
MTA PRESS RELATIONS  
(213) 244-7056, 244-6347  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MTA DONATES RAIL ARTIFACTS TO LOCAL INSTITUTIONS PASADENA BLUE LINE MOVES AHEAD**

The MTA tomorrow will announce the donation of railroad artifacts dating back to the early 1900's, to be removed to make way for another link in the Metro Rail system -- the Pasadena Blue Line.

"It's important to preserve our past, even as we move forward to meet tomorrow's transportation needs," said MTA Chairman and L.A. County Supervisor Ed Edelman. "Rails helped build Southern California, and new rail systems will ensure continued growth and maintain our quality of life."

Old equipment such as rails, signal lights and crossing gates are being donated to four museums and two civic preservation groups. An event to mark the occasion will be held at the former Pasadena Amtrak station, located at the intersection of Raymond Avenue and Del Mar Boulevard, at 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 25.

"We've awarded contracts for demolition and construction of the L.A. River Bridge and the reconstruction of the Arroyo Seco Bridge," said MTA Chief Executive Officer Franklin White. "Clearance of the right of way is another important milestone as we look ahead to serving over 50,000 riders per day."

The Sante Fe right of way, purchased by the MTA in 1992, is being cleared of rails and signaling equipment as an early step in the construction of the new Pasadena Blue Line.

(MORE)

## **PASADENA BLUE LINE**

**Page 2**

Some of the equipment is still useful, and will be recycled. Metrolink will use rails and some of the more modern pieces of signaling equipment to rehabilitate nearly 26 miles of its San Bernadino Line.

Reusing these existing assets will save taxpayers almost \$2 million, reported White. Equipment that is obsolete to current needs, but historically significant, is being turned over to local museums and civic preservation groups.

The institutions were invited to tour the right of way and tag which items they wanted. Removal of the items is done by the museums, at no expense to the MTA. Institutions to receive artifacts include the Pasadena Historical Museum, Pasadena Heritage, City of South Pasadena Heritage Museum, South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, Travel Town Museum, Heritage Square, and the Orange Empire Railway Museum.

Among the artifacts being saved for display are old cross-buck rail crossing signs, destined for the City of South Pasadena, and a cantilever signal bridge, to be added to the Orange Empire Railway Museum's collection of operational railroad mementos.

**# # #**