



NEWS

MARCH 4, 1996

CONTACT: RICK JAGER/JIM SMART
MTA PRESS RELATIONS
(213) 922-2707, 922-2700
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA GATEWAY TRANSIT PLAZA RENAMED IN HONOR OF MTA ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBER NICK PATSAOURAS

The MTA Board of Directors Feb. 28 approved a motion by City Councilman and MTA Board member Richard Alatorre to rename the Gateway Transit Plaza the "Patsaouras Transit Plaza", in honor of alternate Board member Nick Patsaouras.

"The naming of this beautiful plaza after Nick Patsaouras is appropriate since his dedication and hard work over many years was in large part responsible for its completion," said MTA Board Chairman Larry Zarian. "This is a fitting tribute for a man who gave of his time and expertise to complete this project for the people of Los Angeles."

The Transit Center, funded by the federal government as part of a demonstration project, consists of four levels of parking garages, bus drop off and pick up points, extensive gardens, fountains, art and plazas. All are now part of what will be called the "Patsaouras Transit Plaza." Easy connections from the plaza to Metro Red Line, Metrolink and Amtrak trains, as well as MTA's new headquarters building are now available on 2.25 acres of land just east of Union Station.

"Nick Patsaouras has spent 10 years spearheading this project and overseeing the design and construction activities," said Alatorre. "He had a dream and a vision of creating a transportation hub serving both bus and rail passengers for generations to come. He deserves this recognition."

(MORE)

Patsaouras, an alternate on the MTA Board of Directors for L.A. County Supervisor Michael Antonovich, chairs the joint public/private partnership Union Station Gateway, Inc. (USG) Board. Serving with Patsaouras on the USG Board are: Los Angeles City Councilman Richard Alatorre; MTA Alternate Board member Vivian Bonzo; Catellus Development Corporation CEO Nelson Rising; Catellus's Senior Vice President Ira Yellin and Gateway Project Manager Robert Vogel.

"I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Nick Patsaouras," said Joseph E. Drew, MTA interim chief executive officer. "Patsaouras Transit Plaza is a work of architectural and design achievement. It will serve as a major transportation landmark for the City of Los Angeles for decades to come."

The entire Gateway Transit Center is part of a master plan encompassing the Alameda District in which the transit center and the related projects form the initial phases of an integrated transit system of commuter rail, light rail, subway and bus service.

"Patsaouras Transit Plaza" currently serves 11 MTA bus lines and provides access to the Metro Red Line, Metrolink and Amtrak trains. In addition, municipal buses from Torrance, Gardena and the City of Los Angeles serve the facility.

###