



# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MTA TO STUDY REDESIGN OF SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD; THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS**

The MTA is sponsoring a study aimed at redesigning a 2.5-mile portion of Santa Monica Boulevard. The public is invited to participate in the year-long study process.

The Project Refinement Study will address improvements to the Santa Monica Boulevard Corridor between the San Diego Freeway and the Beverly Hills city limits at Moreno Drive. It will take a fresh look at project concepts for the redesign of the Santa Monica Boulevard in the Century City area -- including the former Southern Pacific railroad right-of-way, which is now owned by the MTA.

"This study will constitute a fresh look at the project," said Patti Helm, project manager, MTA Westside Area Team. "Because redesign of the Boulevard has been of great interest to many in the area, community involvement will be critical to the success of this project."

The study will assess how to improve traffic flow, safety, and transit service along the corridor. The study will look at means of improving sidewalk conditions for pedestrians and the visual aesthetics of the corridor, while preserving the residential character of adjacent neighborhoods. The new plan for the corridor may include fewer lanes for traffic than a previous ten-lane proposal.

(MORE)

## SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD STUDY

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The MTA's first outreach effort in the community was the development of a Community Task Force, which met for the first time, Feb. 15. The task force includes representatives from homeowner and civic organizations in the area. Other meetings with impacted communities will be conducted during the year-long study.

The MTA's community outreach effort also will include meetings with interested local organizations -- such as Chambers of Commerce and homeowners' groups -- public workshops and general mailings to the public. The first community workshop is scheduled to be held in early May.

The MTA will shortly issue an informational mailer to residents and businesses along the corridor. The MTA is available to make presentations to interested homeowner, business, and civic organizations upon request. For additional information, call Lynne Goldsmith, manager of government and public affairs, Westside Area Team, at (213) 922-3068.

The MTA has hired a team of consultants to conduct the study. The team, led by Meyer, Mohaddes Associates, a Los Angeles traffic engineering and transportation planning firm, includes Daniel, Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall (DMJM); Gruen Associates, Patti Post & Associates, Terry A. Hayes Associates, The Robert Group, and Woodward-Clyde Consultants.

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