



NEWS

March 26, 1996

CONTACT: CLARA POTES-FELLOW/JIM SMART
MTA PRESS RELATIONS
(213) 922-2712, 922-2711
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA FUNDED BIKE STATION TO OPEN IN LONG BEACH

A full-service bicycle storage and rental facility known as the *BIKESTATION* will open Friday, March 29, in Long Beach.

Catering to biking commuters, avid cyclists and leisure riders, the *BIKESTATION* is the first of its kind in the United States.

"It is an idea whose time has come in America," said MTA Chairman Larry Zarian, noting that in Japan and throughout Europe there are thousands of them. "The *BIKESTATION* offers all-day secured bicycle storage for commuters, and a place to rest and two-hour free bicycle parking for leisure riders who want to go to the movies or dine in a restaurant."

Funded through MTA's Call for Projects, the *BIKESTATION* costs \$230,000 and was earmarked as an 18-month demonstration project to encourage bicycle usage and transit ridership.

BIKESTATION services include:

- enclosed, guarded bicycle parking for \$1 a day,
- bicycle rentals,
- repairs and maintenance tune-ups at market prices,
- commuter bike club which offers special discounts for regular patrons.

(MORE)

BIKE STATION

PAGE 2

Located at the Long Beach Transit Mall –First Street and the Promenade—the *BIKESTATION* is expected to encourage bikers to continue their trips on the Metro Blue Line, Long Beach Transit, Orange County Transit and the Runabout free shuttle.

Two Class-I bike paths extending more than 33 miles, including 3.1 miles of scenic shoreline, also connect to the *BIKESTATION*.

Designed by internationally renowned architect Fernando Vasquez, the facility sports bright colors and creative lighting. Construction materials include corrugated metal, galvanized steel and fiberglass.

#

MTA -060
CPF