



NEWS

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MTA APPROVES PLAN TO DESIGN INTELLIGENT TRAVEL INFO KIOSKS FOR GLENDALE, PASADENA AND BURBANK

A new network of travel information kiosks to be financed through the MTA's Call for Projects, and which Wednesday was approved by the MTA Board, will keep people in Glendale, Burbank and Pasadena updated on the best ways to rendezvous and use the area's multi-modal transportation system.

The Arroyo Verdugo Traffic Forum will be awarded \$333,000 to create a database with information on real-time area roadway conditions, bus and Metrolink arrival/departure times and paratransit options, as well as current weather conditions and special events. The data will then will be fed to 14 user-friendly kiosks featured at such locales as the Glendale Galleria, Burbank Amtrak Station and Pasadena City College.

"This project will enable the public to make more informed choices regarding their mode of travel and reflects the trend in developing hi-tech, real-time solutions to congestion problems experienced in the region," said Interim MTA CEO Linda Bohlinger. "Work on the project will begin in April 1998 and should be complete by April 2000."

The MTA's Call for Projects program occurs every two years and determines how many of the hundreds of transportation improvement project proposals submitted by 88 cities, Los Angeles County and state agencies receive funding. In this particular Call for Projects, a total of 414 proposals vied for \$666.3 million in available funds - 157 were approved.

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Since the program's inception in 1991, the MTA has allocated nearly \$1.4 billion for Los Angeles County projects such as freeway carpool lanes, major street widening, freeway ramps, traffic signal synchronization, bus system improvements, ridesharing incentives, transit centers and park-n-ride lots and regional bikeways. Funds also were available for televillages, a new concept where local residents use mass transit to reach a transit station featuring computer equipment with Internet access and other equipment so they can telecommunicate to work.

A little more than 50 percent of the funding comes from monies raised from Proposition C (the Los Angeles County one-half cent sales tax), the balance from the state and federal government.

To be eligible, a public entity generally must provide transportation services such as build streets and highways or operate a public transit system.

Criteria used in evaluating applications include determining regional significance and project benefit, cost effectiveness (and local funding match), land use and environmental compatibility, project need, project readiness, and benefits to the overall transit system.

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