



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MTA BUSES SOON TO FEATURE FRONT MOUNTED BICYCLE RACKS

MTA will soon be giving bicycle riders a reason to smile when this July it begins installing 700 front mounted fold-up bike racks on buses which most directly serve the regional bikeways throughout LA County.

The black stainless steel racks hold two bicycles apiece and feature an easy-to-use spring action latch which allows the mounting and dismounting of a bicycle in about 30 seconds. As an added safety feature, buses also will be fitted with access mirrors located on the passenger side allowing bus operators a frontal view of the vehicles at all times.

"The MTA Board approved the purchase of up to 1,400 of these bike racks as part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Call for Projects," said Jon Hillmer, MTA regional general manager. "It will take about six months to install the first 700. We expect all 1,400 to be operating by mid-1999."

Hillmer added that within four years the entire 2,200 MTA bus fleet should be bicycle compatible and that newer buses will come equipped from the factory with the bike racks.

"Currently we are working with the LA County Bicycle Advisory Group, the LA Bicycle Advisory Committee and several other bike organizations to determine the most appropriate bus routes to select," Hillmer explained. "Studies have shown the most likely users of our buses with racks will be those who are a mile or two away from a bike route. Naturally, we are looking at

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regions with the greatest bicycle activity.”

MTA expects the bicycle racks will attract a new market of riders. Foothill Transit and Orange County Transit Authority already use bike racks with great success.

Interested parties wishing to contribute ideas regarding possible bus routes are invited to contact MTA via internet at *TidusA@mta.net*.

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