



NEWS

April 21, 1999

CONTACT: RICK JAGER/MARC LITTMAN
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2707/922-2700

-OR-

GEORGIA CASE
LONG BEACH BIKESTATION
(562) 595-0704

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LONG BEACH *BIKESTATION* PROJECT RECEIVES TOP HONORS FROM THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

The Long Beach *BIKESTATION*, a full-service bicycle storage and rental facility catering to biking commuters, avid cyclists and leisure riders has been chosen by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as the winner of their Environmental Excellence award in Community Livability.

The Environmental Excellence awards were established as a way of recognizing and acknowledging outstanding processes, projects, and people for their environmental contributions to the nation's transportation system. The award will be presented in Washington D.C. on April 22.

In selecting the Long Beach *BIKESTATION*, the FHWA said it was more than just a public transit facility, calling it -- "a community hub for bicycle advocacy, transit information and community events."

The Long Beach *BIKESTATION*, funded by the MTA, opened in March 1996 as the first of its kind in the United States. The facility offers all-day secured bicycle parking for riders who want to commute to work, use public transportation or visit the many attractions in the downtown Long Beach area.

More...

The *BIKESTATION* is funded through MTA's Call for Projects program and was earmarked \$230,000 in 1996 for an 18-month demonstration project to encourage bicycle usage and transit ridership. Upon evaluation, the project has received an additional \$62,000 in funding from the MTA for operational costs through March 2000.

Located at the Long Beach Transit Mall at First Street and Promenade, the *BIKESTATION* provides convenient access to the Long Beach to downtown Los Angeles Metro Blue Line, encouraging bikers to continue their trips using a variety of transportation alternatives including local bus service in Long Beach.

In addition, two bike paths extending more than 33 miles, including 3.1-miles of scenic shoreline connect to the *BIKESTATION*.

Designed by internationally renowned architect Fernando Vasquez, the facility sports bright colors and creative lighting. The facility is constructed with corrugated metal, galvanized steel and fiberglass.

Since its inception, the *BIKESTATION* has received numerous awards from various agencies including the Long Beach Planning Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the American Institute of Architects and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The facility is owned and sponsored by the City of Long Beach.

#