



NEWS

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MTA OFFERS FREE RIDES TO BICYCLISTS ON METRO BUSES, METRO RAIL ON BIKE TO WORK DAY MAY 17

To promote Bike to Work Day Thursday, May 17, the MTA will offer bicyclists free rides on Metro Buses and Metro Rail trains that day allowing commuters to cover a portion of their trip on public transit.

All new Metro buses come equipped with bike racks in the front of the bus, although the older coaches, which are being retired, do not have racks. To date, about 1,500 Metro buses can hold two bikes at a time. Cyclists always can ride for no additional charge anytime on Metro buses equipped with bike racks. On May 17, their Metro Bus ride also will be free.

Cyclists also can bring their bikes on Metro Rail and Metrolink trains for no additional charge. Since Metro Rail trains may be full during weekday rush hours MTA only allows bikes on its trains during non-peak hours (before 6 a.m. and after 9 a.m. and before 3 p.m. and after 7 p.m.) weekdays and anytime during weekends. Bicyclists are encouraged to board the last train car where there should be more room.

MTA is a sponsor of Southern California Bike to Work Day May 17, but the transportation agency's commitment to promoting bicycling as an alternative travel mode is a year-round effort.

In the past eight years MTA has provided an estimated \$62 million for 94 bikeway projects in Los Angeles County. These include bike paths along the Los Angeles River and other locations as well as bike lanes on surface streets and street under and over crossings, bike stations, and signage.

More...

1st Add/Free Metro Rides for Bicyclists

In addition, MTA has spent more than \$5 million on bike lockers and racks at Metro Rail and Metrolink stations and other public facilities to encourage commuters to bike to work, and also for education of children on safe riding habits and other bike expenditures.

It is estimated that bicyclists make 2.4 percent of all the daily travel trips in Los Angeles County. MTA's goal by the year 2025 is to double the number of bike trips to 5 percent to ease traffic congestion in the face of growing population and the influx of more motor vehicles.

Toward that end, MTA envisions a network of 1,800 bike path and street bike lane miles in Los Angeles County. Today about 500 miles are in place.

Each year MTA awards about \$7 million to the various cities and County of Los Angeles for bike projects. In its draft Long Range Transportation Plan, a blueprint for transportation planning in Los Angeles County through the year 2025, MTA proposes raising annual bike expenditures to \$10 million a year and up to \$20 million, if funding becomes available. Bike projects are funded primarily with federal transportation funds and some local and state monies distributed through the MTA.

For more information on Bike to Work Day, MTA bike programs and public transportation connections call 1-800 COMMUTE and select the rideshare option. To request a bike map of all bike routes in the City of Los Angeles, call (213) 485-9957. A map showing all bike routes in Los Angeles County is being updated and will be published by MTA next year. To request more information about MTA's funding goals for bike programs, call Lynne Goldsmith in the MTA Planning Department at (213) 922-3068.

Editors: for a digital photo of a bicyclist loading his bike on an MTA bus rack, call Gayle Anderson at MTA at (213) 922-2702 and she will e-mail the photo.