



NEWS

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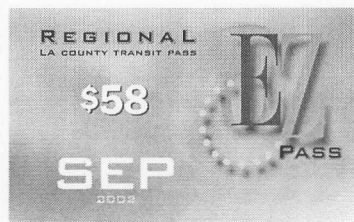
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA, MUNICIPAL BUS OPERATORS TEAM FOR SEAMLESS BUS/RAIL TRAVEL

FIRST REGIONAL EZPASS GOES ON SALE THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Life is about to get easier for thousands of users of public transit as Los Angeles County's first regional transit pass goes on sale this Sunday, August 25. The Regional EZpass will enable frequent users of multiple systems to board MTA's Metro buses and trains and the buses of 11 municipal operators with a single 'passport.'

The Regional EZpass is priced at \$58 for a regular monthly pass, \$29 for seniors, and \$29 for the disabled (with appropriate identification including either an MTA Disabled ID card, Medicare card, LACTOA card or DMV placard). The Regional EZpass does not replace the individual transit passes of the 12 participating operators which will continue to be available.



"The Regional EZpass will greatly simplify the commutes of riders who use more than one of these systems on a regular basis," said Hal Bernson, MTA Board Chair. "Users of the Regional EZpass will no longer need transfers or to carry extra cash or purchase additional transit passes. The Regional Ezpass really is easy."

More...

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The Regional EZpass is good for unlimited travel on the Metro Bus and Rail systems, including the Metro Red, Blue and Green lines, and on the fixed route systems of the following 11 municipal bus operators: Culver City Municipal Bus Lines, Foothill Transit, Montebello Bus Lines, Gardena Municipal Bus Lines, Commerce Municipal Bus Lines, Long Beach Transit, Norwalk Transit, Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus, Torrance Transit, Santa Clarita Transit and LADOT (Los Angeles Department of Transportation). The 12 transit systems operate a total of 386 bus lines and serve nearly 31,000 bus stops.

The multi-operator task force that developed the Regional EZpass will encourage the future participation of other local transit providers, Metrolink and other counties. The cost of the program for fiscal year 2003 will be approximately \$2 million, which will be paid from Proposition A and C local transit sales tax funds.

The Regional EZpass represents the first major phase of a universal fare system (UFS). Within three years, MTA will debut an electronic smart card that will be accepted by the aforementioned transit providers, Metrolink and paratransit service providers.

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