



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA OFFERS FREE RIDES TO BICYCLISTS ON METRO BUSES, METRO RAIL ON BIKE TO WORK DAY MAY 16

To promote Bike to Work Day Thursday, May 16, 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, more than 1,600 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 16, their Metro Bus ride also will be free.

Cyclists also can bring their bikes on Metro Rail 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 and not enter a full train.

MTA is a sponsor of Southern California Bike to Work Day May 16, but the transportation agency has an ongoing commitment in supporting bicycling as another transportation choice to relieve congestion.

More...

1st Add/Free Metro Rides for Bicyclists

In the past eight years MTA has provided an estimated \$80 million for 108 bikeway projects in Los Angeles County. These include bike paths along the Los Angeles River, and future projects along San Fernando Road, Burbank-Chandler right-of-way, Exposition Boulevard, Whittier right-of-way greenway, Bellflower right-of-way, and other locations as well as bike lanes on surface streets, bike bridges, under and over road crossings, bike stations, and bike path signage.

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. These 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 1-800 947-0009 or check the Internet at www.californiabikecommute.com.

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 soon be published by MTA. To request more information about MTA's funding goals for bike programs, call Lynne Goldsmith in the MTA Planning Department at (213) 922-3068.