



NEWS

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MTA HELPS 15 MAJOR L.A. COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS RECEIVE CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FUNDS

The MTA has helped 15 Los Angeles County transportation projects receive nearly 22 percent of all funding offered by a state transportation improvement program.

The California Transportation Commission has voted to award \$22.4 million in 1997/98 Transit Capital Improvement Program funds to such area mass transit projects as Metro Blue and Red Line stations, Metrolink railroad rolling stock purchases and railroad access improvements to Burbank Airport. A total of \$100 million was distributed state-wide, compared to only \$12.5 million in 1996/1997.

In September, long before the CTC decision, the MTA encouraged local agencies, cities and the county to submit applications, which were then assigned a priority ranking by the MTA's Planning Department. MTA Board member and Duarte City Councilman John Fasana presented the MTA Board's recommendations to the CTC in March.

"When you consider CTC reviews nearly 200 applications annually and only 25 to 50 projects receive TCI funds, to have 15 MTA sponsored projects approved is very gratifying," said Interim MTA CEO Linda Bohlinger.

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"Many of the organizations we help are not as familiar as the MTA is with the various nuances contained in these quite complex applications," continued Bohlinger. "We help them make their cases for funding much stronger. After all, we are the region's designated transportation steward and perform this type of activity on a daily basis."

The following four projects were among those directly proposed by the MTA and will result in:

- Passengers traveling a shorter distance between the Pasadena Blue Line Chinatown Station and civic plaza to the bus, shuttle, taxi and DASH on Broadway Street by providing access over what is now private property. \$500,000.
- A 1,100 space parking lot and bus loading facility at the Metro Red Line station in Westlake. \$1.1 million.
- New signage and better access to Burbank Airport. \$1.7 million.
- The purchase of 14 additional cars for the Metrolink system. \$5.3 million.

Also receiving funding were the cities of Los Angeles, Covina, Commerce, Monterey and Santa Clarita, as well as Foothill Transit and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

The actual cost to complete the 15 projects is approximately \$80 million, with the balance to be made up by various cities' local general funds and Proposition C sales tax revenues.

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