



# NEWS

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## **MTA LENDS SUPPORT FOR NEW TRANSPORTATION NERVE CENTER ... TO HELP BREAK THE GRIDLOCK ON LA FREEWAYS**

MTA has paved the way for a new state-of-the-art Transportation Management Center that will provide the Los Angeles region with more effective tools to relieve gridlock on the freeways.

The new center will allow for greater communication and speedier response to situations on the freeways by consolidating the traffic management programs of Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in one location

The center will feature upgraded computerized systems and an expanded closed circuit TV freeway surveillance and fiber optic communications network.

The CHP dispatch center that handles Call Box and 911 calls, as well as calls for the towtrucks of the Freeway Service Patrol, will be housed in the same facility with Caltrans' Transportation Management Center (TMC). The TMC monitors freeway traffic 24-hours a day in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. It will also serve as a central response center for any major disaster such as a large scale earthquake.

In addition, the new center will be equipped with a multi-modal system interface that will allow all the transportation agencies in the region to link up directly with the TMC.

The MTA Board has authorized negotiations for a long term lease agreement with Caltrans to locate a new transportation center on MTA property at Cesar Chavez and Lyon in the downtown area.

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MTA has already awarded \$6.6 million to Caltrans to study and design the new facility. Architectural design work is currently underway on plans for a 65,000 square foot, three-to-four story building. Construction is scheduled to begin September, 1998.

"The new TMC will play an important role in the on-going efforts to expand and improve our ability to provide the Los Angeles region with less congestion and more effective and efficient means of transportation," said MTA Chairman Larry Zarian.

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