



NEWS

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**NEW FREEWAY CARPOOL LANES AND OTHER CALL FOR PROJECTS
IMPROVEMENTS ON THE WAY TO SAN GABRIEL VALLEY**

The MTA Board Wednesday approved funding for 20 Call for Projects proposals in the San Gabriel Valley, including the construction of freeway carpool lanes, several bikeways, traffic signal synchronization, transportation demand management projects, plus the beginning of Alameda Corridor East grade crossing and freight operations improvements.

The MTA's Call for Projects program occurs every two years and determines how many of the hundreds of transportation improvement project proposals submitted by 88 cities, Los Angeles County and state agencies receive funding. In this particular Call for Projects, a total of 414 proposals vied for \$666.3 million in available funds - 157 were approved.

The largest carpool project, 6.2 miles, will cost \$69 million to construct and is located on the San Bernardino Freeway from the Orange/Foothill Freeway interchange to the Los Angeles County line. Another four miles of carpool lanes will be built on the Pomona Freeway between Fullerton and Brea Canyon roads for approximately \$16 million.

"Carpool lanes on Route 10 are used by more people than anywhere else in Los Angeles County," said Interim MTA CEO Linda Bohlinger.

"Whereas the minimum number of passengers allowed to use carpool lanes in most areas of Southern California is just two passengers per vehicle, on Route 10 it's three. It's imperative for the MTA to reward this usage and build upon that success."

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Other San Gabriel Valley transportation improvement proposals approved include \$20 million for the initial upgrading of bridges, track and signal enhancements stretching from near Redondo Junction in Los Angeles to Pomona in anticipation of increased rail traffic as a result of increased Alameda Corridor freight volumes from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. A total of \$1.9 million will be allocated for building a bikeway within the former Santa Fe railroad right-of-way in the cities of San Dimas, La Verne and Claremont. In addition, \$13 million will be allotted for three separate traffic signal synchronization forum areas (projects proposed by a collection of cities and sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works).

"Clearly, these particular traffic improvement projects and others on the drawing board will make it easier for people living in and visiting the San Gabriel Valley to travel in a more timely, less stressful manner," said Duarte City Councilmember John Fasana. "New carpool lanes, bikeways, signal synchronization and grade crossing improvements are vital elements in the MTA vision of creating a multi-modal transportation system that reduces traffic congestion and offers travelers options."

Since the program's inception in 1991, the MTA has allocated nearly \$1.4 billion for Los Angeles County projects such as freeway carpool lanes, major street widening, freeway ramps, traffic signal synchronization, bus system improvements, ridesharing incentives, transit centers and park-n-ride lots and regional bikeways. Funds were also available for televillages, a new concept where local residents use mass transit to reach a transit station featuring computers with access to the Internet and other equipment so they can telecommunicate to work.

A little more than 50 percent of the funding comes from monies raised from Proposition C (the Los Angeles County one-half cent sales tax), the balance from the state and federal government.