



NEWS

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ALAMEDA CORRIDOR AND TRAFFIC LIGHT SYNCHRONIZATION PROJECT AMONG PROPOSALS TO RECEIVE MTA CALL FOR PROJECTS FUNDS

The Alameda Corridor project, which will increase the flow of rail freight between the ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach and Downtown Los Angeles while reducing surface street traffic congestion, is one of 29 Southeast Los Angeles County transportation improvement projects that will receive Call for Projects funding, the MTA Board announced Wednesday.

Other projects approved by the MTA Board include the continued funding of a major traffic signal synchronization effort within four interstate highway corridors and a bikeway.

"The Alameda Corridor project is expected to result in 700,000 new trade-related jobs in Southern California by the year 2020, and the doubling of trade passing through San Pedro Bay by the year 2010," said Interim MTA CEO Linda Bohlinger. "Awarding this project \$198 million in Call for Projects monies allows work, ranging from grade separations, minor bridge improvements, track work, including storage tracks, new structures and utility relocation to proceed on the north and south ends of that project."

"By receiving Call for Projects funding the Alameda Corridor is right on track to being completed by the year 2001 and transforming Long Beach and all of Los Angeles County into the Pacific Rim's gateway to the United States," said Long Beach City Council and MTA Board member Jenny Oropeza. "Not only will it mean a boon to the local economy and many fewer traffic headaches, but nationally 3.2 million jobs are expected to be created."

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Meanwhile, the Gateway Cities Traffic Signal Corridors Project Phase II, first funded by MTA in the fiscal year 1995/97 Call for Projects, will receive \$15 million to pay for the synchronization of traffic signals at major arterial intersections that parallel interstates 105, the 710, 5 and 605.

The major corridor intersections are Firestone Boulevard, Rosecrans Avenue, Imperial Highway, Atlantic Boulevard, Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood/Rosemead Boulevard and Telegraph Road.

Another Southeast Los Angeles County project approved by the MTA Board is the 6.9 mile Coyote Creek Regional Bikeway, slated to receive \$424,000. The bikeway is located at the intersection of Imperial Highway and Beach Boulevard in La Habra and will extend through four cities and two counties. Bikeway path access points include the La Habra Town Square, La Mirada Theater Center, Home Depot Center, Biola University and La Mirada and El Camino high schools.

The MTA's Call for Projects program occurs every two years and determines which of the hundreds of transportation improvement project proposals submitted by 88 cities, Los Angeles County and state agencies receives funding. This particular Call for Projects saw 414 proposals vie for approximately \$666.3 million. In all, 157 were approved following a four-month evaluation and ranking period involving MTA planning staff, extensive input from cities/project sponsors and the MTA Board.

Since the program's inception in 1991, the MTA has allocated nearly \$1.4 billion for such projects as freeway carpool lanes, major street widening, freeway ramps, traffic signal synchronization, bus system improvements such as bus lanes, 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 computer

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equipment with Internet access and other equipment so they can telecommunicate to work.

Slightly more than 50 percent of the funding comes from monies raised from Proposition C and the balance from the state and federal government.

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