



NEWS

January 28, 1999

CONTACT: GARY WOSK/MARC LITTMAN
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2712/922-2700
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIDDAY METRO FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL SERVICE REINSTATED

The MTA Board today approved a plan to reinstate service Feb. 1 on 17 Metro Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) midday beats identified by Caltrans in a study which demonstrates heavy traffic levels from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On average, over 300,000 stranded Los Angeles County freeway motorists are assisted each year by a team of 300 FSP tow truck drivers who provide services such as towing disabled vehicles, changing flat tires, jump starting stalled vehicles, refilling radiators or adding a gallon of gas — all free-of-charge. The trucks are easily identifiable by the MTA and FSP logos and white paint scheme.

The MTA will spend about \$475,000 for the duration of fiscal year 1999 to bring back the midday service — eliminated last July for budgetary reasons — and \$1.1 million in fiscal year 2000. The decision to reinstate the service was largely based on a Caltrans report requested by MTA Board member Jose Legaspi in September. The analysis revealed that traffic on 17 of 26 beats exceeded “the threshold indicating traffic congestion” during midday hours.

The analysis, to the satisfaction of MTA staff and the Board, clearly demonstrated that the FSP was actually needed on these 17 beats to help mitigate traffic congestion. The quick response time of the skillful and courteous drivers of the FSP should shorten delays and lessen frustration in these areas. Overall, the reinstated program should better achieve the program’s goal of congestion relief.

MORE...

Page 2 FSP: Midday Service Back

With the reinstated service, the MTA has committed to a budget of nearly \$16 million annually for the FSP tow service which covers 430 miles of Los Angeles County freeways. The California Highway Patrol and Caltrans share oversight of the program as well.

Metro Freeway Service Patrol Service Reinstatement Areas:

405 Freeway (3 Beats)

I-5/I-405 interchange to I-5/I-105 interchange

101 Freeway (2 Beats)

SR-134/SR-101

10 Freeway (4 Beats)

Bundy Drive to Vermont Avenue
Eastern Avenue to San Bernardino County line

5 Freeway (2 Beats)

Hollywood Way to Stadium Way
Garfield Avenue to Orange County line

60 Freeway (2 Beats)

3rd Street to Fairway Drive

605 Freeway (1 Beat)

Telegraph Road to Orange County line

91 Freeway (1 Beat)

Cherry Avenue to Orange County line

105 Freeway (1) Beat)

Central Avenue to Studebaker Road

110 Freeway (1 Beat)

MLK Junior Boulevard to Carson

###