



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BICYCLISTS TO GET FREE RIDES ON METRO BUSES, TRAINS

MTA TELEPHONE HOTLINE PROVIDES INFORMATION ON MAY 17 'BIKE TO WORK DAY'

The MTA has set up a special telephone hotline to provide information on this year's Southern California Bike to Work Day, Thursday, May 17.

Participants seeking information about Bike to Work Day can call (213)922-2660. Callers have the option to leave a message if they need additional information. A Bike to Work Day representative will return the call.

The MTA will offer bicyclists free rides on Metro Buses and Metro Rail trains on Bike to Work Day. Some 1,500 Metro Buses are equipped with two-bike racks and all new buses come factory-equipped with the racks. There's never a charge to use the bike racks.

Cyclists also can bring their bikes on Metro Rail and Metrolink trains for no additional charge, but because Metro Rail trains may carry full passenger loads during weekday rush hours, the MTA does not allow bikes on its trains between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. and between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Bicycles are permitted on trains at anytime during weekends. Bicyclists are encouraged to board the last car on the train.

The MTA is a sponsor of Bike to Work Day, but the transportation agency's commitment to promoting bicycling is a year round effort. In the past eight years the MTA has provided an estimated \$62 million for 94 bikeway projects in Los Angeles County. These include bike paths along the Los Angeles River and other locations, as well as bike lanes, bike stations and signage.

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In addition, the MTA has promoted bike safety education for children and spent more than \$5 million on bike lockers and racks and Metro Rail and Metrolink stations and other public facilities to encourage commuters to bike to work.

Bicyclists make an estimated 2.4 percent of all daily travel trips in Los Angeles County. The MTA's goal by the year 2025 is to double the number of bike trips to 5 percent to ease traffic congestion.

Toward that end, the MTA envisions a network of 1,800 miles of bike paths and bike lanes in Los Angeles County. Today, about 500 miles are in place.

Each year, the MTA awards about \$7 million to various cities and the County of Los Angeles for bike projects. In its recently adopted Long Range Transportation Plan, the blueprint for transportation planning in Los Angeles County through the year 2025, the MTA proposes raising annual bike expenditures to \$10 million a year and up to \$20 million, if funding becomes available.

Bike projects are funded primarily with federal transportation funds and some local and state monies distributed through the MTA.

To request a map of all bike routes in the City of Los Angeles, call (213)580-1177. For more information about the MTA's funding goals for bike programs, call Lynne Goldsmith from MTA's Planning Department at (213)922-3068.

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