



MTA Board Chair Yvonne Burke, center, leads dedication ceremony joined by Caltrans District 7 Director Robert Sassaman, left, MTA Transit Operations Chief Tom Conner, and MTA Board Vice-Chair James Cragin, at right.

PHOTO BY JOSÉ UBALDO

Ribbon-Cutting Signifies Opening of Last Two Transitway Bus Stations

By JOSÉ UBALDO
(Nov 17) MTA and Caltrans officials marked the expansion of express Metro bus service on the Harbor Transitway during a ribbon-cutting ceremony, today, at the newly opened Pacific Coast Highway bus station.

MTA Board Chair Yvonne Burke, MTA and Caltrans officials dedicated the PCH and Carson Street bus stations - the last to be opened on the 19.5-mile Transitway. The high-speed bus and carpool lane, which runs down the middle of the I-110 freeway,

connects San Pedro, downtown Los Angeles and points between.

Bus riders and carpool users can save an estimated one minute travel time per mile by using the Harbor Transitway, compared to solo drivers bucking rush-hour traffic on the Harbor Freeway.

"This is another example of how MTA is steadily improving Metro Bus service," said Board Chair Burke. "There's more service, cheaper fares and newer buses, and bus riders will get to and from downtown Los Angeles more quickly, because they'll be traveling in the carpool lanes."

Six existing stations

The new stations at PCH and Carson Street join six existing express bus stations at the Artesia Transit Center, Rosecrans Avenue, Harbor/I-105, Manchester Avenue, Slauson Avenue and 37th Street. Free park-and-ride lots are located at all but the 37th Street station.

Metro Bus express lines 445, 446, 447 and 550 serve the Transitway stations from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, with 30-minute headways during peak weekday periods and hourly during off-peak and on weekends. From the Harbor/I-105 station north, however, the convergence of other bus lines provides passenger service about every eight minutes during morning and evening commutes.

Cash fares on all MTA Transitway bus lines through Jan. 31, 2000, have been reduced from \$3.35 to \$1.35 – no freeway zone charges will be in effect.

Joining Supervisor Burke at the opening ceremony were Caltrans District 7 Director Robert Sassaman, MTA Board Vice-Chair James Cragin and MTA Transit Operations Chief Tom Conner. Following the ceremony the group, along with media, experienced the new service by riding special buses from the PCH station to the Harbor/I - 105 station and back.

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