

## MTA Asks Congress for \$75 Million for FY 2002

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(March 8)The MTA is asking Congress for \$75 million in FY 2002 to help meet Los Angeles County's goals of reducing traffic congestion, operating efficient transit services and improving air quality.

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Mayor Richard Riordan, in the capital on city business, joined Burke for part of the day.

The biggest chunk of the MTA's funding request is \$50.1 million to complete the federal funding commitment for the Metro Rail North Hollywood extension. The agency also is seeking \$11.9 million for final design of fixed guideways for the Eastside and Mid-City transit corridors.

The MTA is asking for \$10 million to support and expand the Metro Rapid bus program in the San Fernando Valley, Mid-City area and the South Bay. Of that, \$6.5 million would be use to purchase new coaches and for the bus signal priority system. The remaining \$3.5 million would be for construction of bus stations.

The funding request includes \$2 million for additional transit services in areas with high numbers of workers who need transportation throughout the day. The MTA also is seeking \$1 million for development of the Regional Universal Fare System database.

In a fact sheet prepared for members of Congress, the MTA notes that it continues to expand and improve its Metro Bus and Metro Rail service. Metro Rapid buses now transport more than 100,000 passengers each day, the fact sheet said.

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