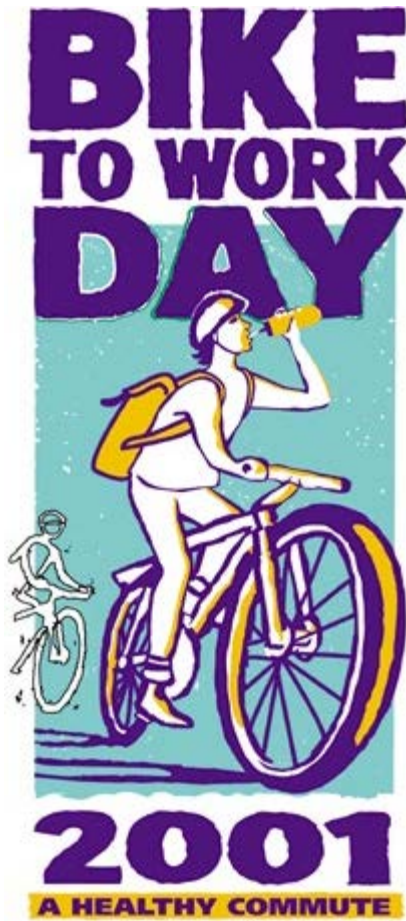


ROLE MODELS: [MTA Employees can register NOW for VIP 'Pit Stop' on Bike to Work Day](#)



MTA Offers Free Rides to Bicyclists on Metro Buses, Metro Rail

By JOSÉ UBALDO

(April 23, 2001) The MTA will offer bicyclists free rides on Metro Buses and Metro Rail trains on Bike to Work Day, Thursday, May 17.

Some 1,500 Metro Buses are equipped with two-bike racks and all new coaches come factory-equipped with the racks. There's never a charge for use of 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 only allows bikes on its trains during non-peak hours (before 6 a.m. and after 9 a.m. and before 3 p.m. and after 7 p.m.) weekdays and anytime during weekends. Bicyclists are encouraged to board the last car on the train.

The MTA is a sponsor of Southern California Bike to Work Day, but the transportation agency's commitment to promoting bicycling as an alternative travel mode is a year-round effort.

94 bikeway projects

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.

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

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, 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.

\$7 million for bike projects

Each year, the MTA awards about \$7 million to various cities and the County of Los Angeles for bike projects.

In its draft Long-Range Transportation Plan, a 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) 485-9957. For more information about the MTA's funding goals for bike programs, call Lynne Goldsmith, MTA Planning Department at 922-3068.

[Back to MTA Report](#)