



Plans for the new MTA Transportation Research Museum call for restoring a 1926 Fageol double-decker bus similar to this model operated by Los Angeles Motor Coach Company. Below, a photo of Pacific Electric conductors and a dispatcher (center) taken in 1930 at the rail yard at 6th and Main in Los Angeles is among the historic photos that will be on file in the new museum.

**MTA Library
Plans to Open
Transportation
Museum
at Gateway**



By BILL HEARD, Editor
(April 24, 2001) From horsecars and trolleys to rapid buses and subways, the rich and varied history of transportation in Los Angeles will be featured in a new museum expected to open in mid-2002 as an expansion of the MTA Library.

Such artifacts as rail vehicle and bus models, early fareboxes and moneybags, posters, bus benches and uniform items will be on display. The exhibits will include a series of 31 photos depicting the transit history of Los Angeles since 1874.

The focus of the Transportation Research Museum and Library Center will be on scholarship and research.



MTA Librarian Dorothy Gray

"We have the largest transportation library in the country owned by an agency that operates transit," says Librarian Dorothy Gray. "We have about 300,000 volumes, including microfiche, videos and photographs. There are actually 40,000 reports and books."

As part of the museum project, Gray will develop a computer database for cataloging the museum's artifacts, documents, photos and research materials.

First on the Internet

"The MTA will be the first transit agency to make its historical collection available via the Internet to researchers, scholars and transportation enthusiasts," says Gray.

The proposed site for the \$1.3 million museum, to be built primarily with federal funds, is on the west side of the 15th floor of Headquarters, adjacent to the Library.

The 918-square-foot space, currently in use as a Metro Construction plan room, will be renovated to house the Library's collection of historical documents, books and other rare transportation-related materials.

The museum plan includes funds to restore a 1926 Fageol double-decker bus, a 1930s-vintage Los Angeles Motor Coach bus and a trolley car of the type used as a Pacific Electric Red Car or a Los Angeles Railway Yellow Car. The vehicles would be housed at bus and rail divisions and made available to researchers and tour groups by appointment.

Traveling exhibits planned

Future plans for the museum call for developing transit history exhibits that would be displayed at libraries, schools and other locations in Los Angeles County.

"You always want to document your history and have some record of your past," says Gray. "I think visiting the museum and the library will be an excellent opportunity for residents to familiarize themselves with that history. Hopefully, it will inspire them to develop a closer connection with their transportation system."

The Transportation Research Museum and Library Center will be supported, in part, by volunteers. It will be open to MTA employees and to the public during business hours.

See Bulletin Board: [MTA Library Needs Historic Uniform Items for Collection](#)

[Back to MTA Report](#)