



Metro Freeway Service Patrol assists motorist on 405 freeway. PHOTO BY JOSÉ UBALDO

**MTA Board Approves Funding for
Metro Freeway Service Patrol
to Ease Traffic During Freeway Construction**

By JOSÉ UBALDO

(Aug. 13, 2001) Anticipating a heavy schedule of highway construction over the next two years, the MTA will help Caltrans mitigate traffic congestion by providing an additional \$3 million for the Metro Freeway Service Patrol (FSP).

Fact Sheet

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Service Patrol](#)

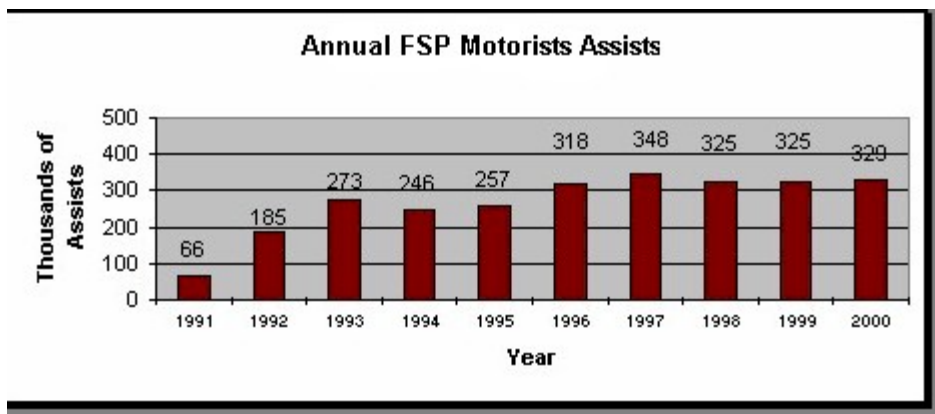
The MTA Board approved a proposal in July that includes extra funding through June 30, 2003. The action came in response to Governor Gray Davis' \$5.3 billion Congestion Relief Plan, which includes funds for highway improvements.

The agreement doesn't specify a specific project or a site but rather provides funding for Metro FSP support when and where it is required on an as needed basis. The MTA will be reimbursed by the state for providing Metro FSP services.

MTA and Caltrans will work together to develop a schedule of Metro FSP deployment outside the normal hours of operation at nights and on weekends. As an example, Caltrans proposes to use Metro FSP on its construction project on I-5 near Santa Clarita along a freeway segment that does not currently have normal Metro FSP service.

Metro FSP is a partnership between Caltrans, California Highway Patrol and the MTA. It operates primarily during commute hours Monday through Friday, with limited mid-day service. Metro FSP also provides weekend service from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

METRO FREEWAY SERVICE PATROL



THE GOAL ... Throughout Los Angeles County, your public dollars are hard at work supporting the operation of the largest fleet of tow and service trucks (145) in the country. Known as the Los Angeles County Metro Freeway Service Patrol (FSP), private tow operators are contracted to patrol designated portions (beats) of freeways during morning and afternoon commute hours. Their goal is to quickly repair or remove disabled vehicles to relieve freeway congestion. Each beat is approximately ten miles in length and contains three to five trucks that continuously patrol a freeway route.

THE PARTNERS ...

The Freeway Service Patrol is a jointly managed program involving the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). It is funded through local Prop C - 25% sales tax and state highway funds.

THE HISTORY ... The FSP Program was started in LA County in July, 1991. More than 2.6 million motorists have been assisted since its inception (See graph). There are 10 FSP programs located in the major metropolitan areas throughout California.

THE SERVICE ... Over 70 percent of assisted motorists wait less than 5 minutes during FSP hours before an FSP truck arrives to provide assistance. In four out of five assists, FSP drivers are able to repair the problem at the scene within 10 minutes of arriving. FSP drivers will change a flat tire, fill a radiator, tape leaky hoses, provide a jump-start, provide a gallon of gas, or when necessary, will tow the vehicle to a safe location off the freeway.

THE BENEFITS ... According to a 2000 survey conducted by UC Berkeley, the Los Angeles County FSP program has an average cost benefit ratio of more than 14 to 1. This means that for every \$1 spent on FSP, there is a \$14 savings to the motorist.

THE COST ... The FSP service is free to motorists. FSP drivers are not allowed to receive any payment from motorists for freeway assistance.

THE HOURS ... The FSP operates on almost all freeways in Los Angeles County. The typical hours of operation are Monday - Friday 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm. Some of the more congested freeways also have coverage during weekday midday and weekend hours.

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