



FREE TO GO: Front row, from left, Doreen Moore, LAC Commission on Aging Board member; Mary Helen Cruz, LAC Commission on Aging Board member; Senior Center Director from the Office of County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; Helen Ortiz, MTA; Nadia Powers, LAC Commission on Aging Transportation committee chairwoman; Norma Carrasco, MTA DAC member; Ellen Blackman, MTA; Lupe Desilva, LAC Commission on Aging; Jess Segovia, Access Services. Back row, from left, Vanessa Smith, MTA; Paul Magallanes, DAC member; Martha DeAndrea, LADOT, and Chuck Hammerstein, LADOT.

Seniors Discover Transportation Options in 'Free to Go' Program

The "Free to Go" is an outreach program designed to encourage senior citizens to use and expand transportation options to get where they want to go.

Helen Ortiz of MTA Bus Operations Public Affairs, Vanessa Smith from MTA Revenue and Ellen Blackman of MTA Regional Planning have been working with the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging Transportation Committee, LADOT and Access Services to conduct "Free to Go" discovery tours in all five supervisorial districts.

"People who have participated in the program have found it helpful," said Ellen Blackman. "Several people who were reluctant to try the rail system now look forward to taking the trains."

"The MTA continues to reach out to all segments of our ridership. The FTG Program has given MTA an opportunity to inform the senior population of transportation options available to them. Bus Operations is pleased to provide support in this effort," said John Roberts, Deputy Executive Officer, Transit Operations.

"It is very rewarding to see so many senior citizens enthusiastic about the transportation system," said Helen Ortiz. "The discovery that they're 'Free to Go' is a cause for celebration."

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