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Artist's rendering of Hawthorne Boulevard Improvements Project >



- MTA-funded Project Will Improve Hawthorne Boulevard in Lawndale

By GARY WOSK

(March 12, 2002) A portion of Hawthorne Boulevard in the City of Lawndale, between Rosecrans and Redondo Beach boulevards, is about to replace its "arterial sclerosis" for a faster, sportier look.

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, representing the MTA, joined local officials for a groundbreaking ceremony to announce the start of the project, funded primarily by a \$10 million grant provided by the MTA in the 1999 Call for Projects.

Work will begin this spring on a yearlong project to improve street surfaces, lighting, signals, sidewalks, bus shelters and landscaping. The project will close a 1.8-mile gap with earlier improvements on the boulevard linking Hawthorne and Torrance.

The heavily traveled route, a popular thoroughfare for trucks, bears the burden of more than 62,000 vehicles each day. No closures of Hawthorne Boulevard are expected.

"This project will end some of the bottleneck that you experience going into Lawndale, but it's not just going to help Lawndale," said Burke. "It's going to impact the whole South Bay."

Many will benefit from the project, emphasized Lawndale Mayor Harold Hofmann, including businesses, shoppers and the traveling public.

"This money is very much in demand, so for the city of Lawndale to get this is a real coup," Burke said. "It was evaluated as a very important project."

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