

## MTA and LADOT Share Blue Sky Merit Award

By MARTA MAESTAS-MACK

(Nov 14, 2002) Skies were gray and cold last Thursday at the Skirball Cultural Center in Beverly Glen, but it was all "Blue Skies" for MTA and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT).

The partner agencies were co-recipients of the prestigious Blue Sky Merit Award presented by the CALSTART division of WestStart at its 10th Anniversary Advanced Transportation Industry Conference.

MTA and LADOT received honors for the implementation of the Metro Rapid

demonstration program. Accepting the award for MTA were David Armijo, general manager of Metro San Fernando Valley. James Okazaki, LADOT assistant general manager, accepted for his agency.

The MTA Board's funding of the Metro Rapid expansion to 23 new lines and its purchase of over 800 new CNG and CNG-hybrid electric buses was acknowledged as making MTA a leader in the use of clean alternative fuel vehicles.

"It is an honor for the MTA to be acknowledged on a national and international level for its leadership in the use of clean fuel buses," said Armijo, "We look forward to continuing our partnership with the City of Los Angeles to bring improved air quality to the citizens of the city and the county."

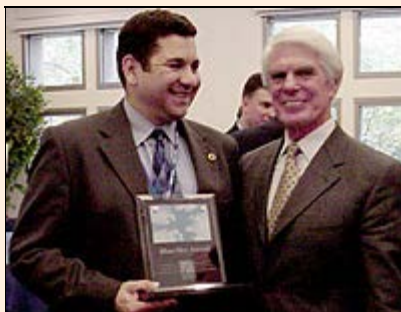
Armijo also was a presenter at the all-day conference and spoke on "Bus Rapid Transit and the Role It Will Play In The Future Of The US Transit Network."

WestStart is a non-profit, fuel-neutral consortium of over 150 participants worldwide. Its goal is to support development of advanced transportation technologies that result in improved air quality and greater energy efficiency worldwide. CALSTART is the California operating division of WestStart.

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^ LADOT's James Okazaki, left, and MTA's David Armijo, right, accepted the Blue Sky Merit Awards on behalf of their agencies from WestStart's John Boesel.



< Congressman Jerry Lewis, right, congratulates GM Armijo and MTA for receiving the Blue Sky Merit Award.