

Los Angeles City Councilman Eric Garcetti, at left, L.A. Bike Coalition Director Ron Milam, Councilman Tom LaBonge, and, at far right, Los Angeles City Bicycle Commission Director Michelle Mowrey lead bike commute down Sunset Boulevard on Bike to Work Day.



PHOTO: DAVE SOTERO

## Bike to Work Day Demonstrates Alternative Commute

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(May 16, 2003) The MTA-sponsored "Bike to Work" Day in Los Angeles, May 15, put more than miles on bicycles. It also put smiles on the faces of bicycling proponents, who aim to increase the number of daily bikers to ease traffic congestion and reduce air pollution.

"It was a way to reduce cars on city streets, even for just one day," said José Ubaldo of MTA Media Relations. "The event shows that the bicycle commute to work is fun and a healthy alternative to driving a car."

Leading an entourage of nearly 20 cyclists, 13<sup>th</sup> District Los Angeles City Councilman Eric Garcetti and 4<sup>th</sup> District Councilman Tom LaBonge proved that riding a bike to work was just plain fun.

With media in tow, the two councilman took off from the corner of Sunset and Echo Park boulevards for the ride down Sunset to their respective council offices.

The city officials were joined on a



PHOTO: DAVE SOTERO

Los Angeles City Councilmen Tom LaBonge, left, and Eric Garcetti hold impromptu news conference in advance of bike ride down Sunset. Media included TV channels 2, 4, 7, 9, 22, 34, 52, 62 and Radio Station KFWB.

four-mile bicycle commute by member of the L.A. Bike Coalition, including Executive Director Ron Milan, City of Los Angeles Bicycle Commission Director Michelle Mowrey and council staff members.

MTA chipped in with free rides on Metro buses and trains, offering cyclists the opportunity to hop aboard for at least part of their commute.

Meanwhile, MTA employees who rode their bicycles to work were rewarded with official "Bike to Work" t-shirts and a complimentary energy breakfast at a festive pit shop at Patsaouras Plaza.

Some 55 employees registered to take part in the event, said Irma Rivera, who coordinated the employee participation. Assisting in the effort were interns Tiffany Trinh, Belen Marquez, Tay Chor and Anna Robles.

Whether they biked the entire commute or hopped aboard the Metro system for at least a partial ride, employees logged in an unofficial 1,149 miles in commuter miles. For a complete list of MTA Bike to Work commuters, [click here](#).

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MTA employees who biked to work included, from left, Carrie Bradford, Joe O'Donnell, Irma Rivera, Heim Geffen, Timothy Papandreou, Phil Ganezer, Valerie Harrison, Thomas Rodriguez, Fiona Schneider, and Roger Martin. <[CLICK TO VIEW](#) large format>



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Roger Martin, center, wins a set of panniers and congratulations from visiting REI representative Ross Elion. REI tent offered bike safety check ups and store giveaways to participating MTA employees.