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'Seniors on the Move' Program Promoted Transit Use

By JODY LITVAK

(April 1, 2004) Some 500 senior citizens were encouraged to take advantage of transit and stay active and healthy, March 29, during a "Seniors on the Move" program.

Sponsored by the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging and County Supervisor and MTA Board Chairman Zev Yaroslavsky, the program provided information about a variety of transportation alternatives.

Commission Chairwoman Nadia Powers encouraged seniors to learn how to use all the transportation options available to them to stay involved with friends, family and the community. "It's better than the alternative," she joked.

Yaroslavsky discussed many MTA initiatives to improve transportation throughout the County, including the new dedicated bus-only lane currently being evaluated on a portion of Wilshire Boulevard.

Positive experiences

MTA Board Member Pam O'Connor related some of her positive experiences using public transit and encouraged the group to use transit to visit Los Angeles' many cultural institutions.

Held at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, the day began with an Information Fair.

Representatives from Metro, Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus, Access Services, and Wise Senior Transportation all provided an overview on how to use their services.

A "how-to" session educated the group about trip planning, using a timetable and strategies for ensuring a safe trip.

The seniors were treated to a bus tour to see their new skills applied in a real-life setting. Many of the seniors also took advantage of the opportunity to have their picture taken and receive a free Metro pass to use during April.

PHOTOS: VALARIE HARRISON-BOYER/JOVAN OWENS



Senior citizens crowded the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium to participate in "Seniors on the Move." Below, many seniors toured a Metro Bus and received a free Metro pass for April.



