



NEWS

February 6, 1997

**STATEMENT BY MTA CHAIRMAN LARRY ZARIAN
AND INTERIM CEO LINDA BOHLINGER RE:
PROPOSED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR METRO RAIL CONSTRUCTION**

The MTA is pleased that President Clinton has earmarked \$99 million for Los Angeles' Metro Rail construction program in his Fiscal Year 1998 budget that was unveiled this morning. If endorsed by Congress, this level of funding will enable MTA to achieve the Metro Red line subway recovery plan that was recently adopted by the MTA Board and submitted to the federal government. It is critical, however, that Congress appropriate the full amount if we are to stay on schedule.

Top officials with the Federal Transit Administration have told MTA they were pleased with our progress, and this Presidential budget underscores the solid ongoing commitment of the FTA for our efforts to improve mass transit in the region.

Consistent with the President's efforts to reduce the federal deficit, only \$634 million will be available nationwide for mass transit capital programs in FY 98, down \$126 million from the current year. Los Angeles is one of 16 cities competing for our share of federal dollars.

Again, we are grateful to the FTA and the President and look forward to a positive response in Congress.

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