



NEWS

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MTA SUPPORTS CALIFORNIA BIKE COMMUTE DAY, MAY 22

Tomorrow, thousands of commuters will opt for two wheels to get them to work or school on the third annual California Bicycle Commute day.

The event is sponsored by the MTA, the California Bicycle Coalition, the American Lung Association, Southern California Rideshare and several Southern California cities and transit agencies.

The idea is to encourage people to leave their cars at home and take a bike, or a bike and a bus and a train.

"MTA supports numerous bicycle programs and facilities because we want to encourage people to use bicycles as a viable alternative form of transportation," said MTA Chairman Larry Zarian. "It means less congestion and cleaner air."

The MTA has helped fund 400 miles of bike routes in Los Angeles County and will fund some \$18 million in general improvements for bicycle use in the next two years.

The MTA has helped fund one bike station, in Long Beach, and is looking at proposals for several others to provide facilities for cyclists at major bus and train stations in other parts of the country.

The Long Beach Bikestation is sponsoring a Bike Commute Rally with public officials on Bike Commute Day, and providing breakfast, newspaper, and free goodie bag to all bicycle commuters.

Employers throughout the region have set up programs to encourage employees to try bicycling to work. Commuters can fill out pledge cards to participate in the campaign to encourage cycling, and win prizes, by calling 1-800-COMMUTE, extension 3.

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