



APRIL 13, 1994

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CTC ALLOCATES \$87.2 MILLION FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has committed \$87.2 million to Los Angeles County for transportation improvements in fiscal year 1995, which begins this July 1.

The funds include the allocation of \$52.1 million for Segment 2 of the Metro Red Line, and the programming of funds for two series of projects: \$22.4 million for Transportation Enhancement Activities projects and \$12.7 million for Transportation Capital Improvement (TCI) projects.

"We commend the action taken by the CTC," said MTA Chairman Richard Alatorre. "This is an important vote of confidence in our programs, and a sound investment in our transit future," he said.

The Union Station Gateway project received \$11.6 million from the Enhancement program, and \$8.9 million in TCI funds. The Gateway project includes a major intermodal passenger center for light rail, subway, bus, Metrolink and Amtrak. Facilities will include a bus plaza and 2500-space park-and-ride lot. By the year 2010, 115,000 daily transit riders are expected to utilize the facility.

"This grant allows us to proceed in a timely manner with many long-planned projects," said MTA CEO Franklin White. "For many of these projects, there was no alternate source of funds, so we are particularly pleased with the CTC's action," he said.

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Other TCI projects included \$2.3 million for track improvements at the Norwalk Metrolink Station, and \$725 thousand, also for track improvements, at the Montebello Metrolink Station. Last October, the CTC allocated \$2 million for construction of the Norwalk station, which is due to open this December.

Other rail projects included \$1.4 million for renovation and restoration of the historic Pomona train depot. Built in 1940, the depot will serve bus, Metrolink, and Amtrak passengers.

A total of \$4.6 million was committed to the Exposition Boulevard right-of-way bicycle path. An estimated quarter of a million persons per year are expected to use the bikeway, which will provide an east/west link to seven north/south bikeways, and will link Santa Monica with the University of Southern California/Exposition Park area.

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