



February 9, 1996

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MTA INVITES ISLANDERS TO PUBLIC HEARINGS
FEBRUARY 20 TO DISCUSS REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**

The MTA will hold a public hearing to obtain ideas and suggestions for meeting public transportation needs on Santa Catalina Island Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1996, at 7 p.m. at Catalina Justice Court, 215 Summer Avenue, Avalon. Both sessions will last as long as necessary to allow those who have requested to speak a chance to be heard.

The island is eligible to receive a share of California Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds for transportation-related projects.

"The Transportation Development Act, passed in 1971, gives areas that are not included in MTA's service area a chance to share in a portion of TDA funds to help pay for local public transit needs," said Joseph E. Drew, MTA interim chief executive officer. "To qualify for funds, an area must demonstrate a real need, which makes public participation very important. We encourage Santa Catalina Island residents and visitors to attend and let us know their needs."

Following the hearing, and after receiving input from the Hearing Board and Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, the MTA ultimately decides whether there are existing unmet transit needs. If no reasonable "unmet transit needs" are identified, funds may then be used for street and road improvements.

Those unable to attend the hearing may submit written comments to the MTA by March 5, 1996. Comments should be sent to MTA Article 8 Hearing Record, P.O. Box 194, Los Angeles, CA 90053, attention Bryce Little.

For information about TDA funds or the public hearing, call Bryce Little at (213) 922-3015.

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