



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MTA INVITES SANTA CLARITA AREA TO PUBLIC HEARINGS
FEBRUARY 21 TO DISCUSS REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**

The MTA has planned two public hearings to obtain ideas and suggestions for meeting public transportation needs in the Santa Clarita area Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1996, at Santa Clarita City Hall, 23920 Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita.

Two sessions will be held. The first will be at 3 p.m. and the second at 7:30 p.m. However, both sessions will last as long as necessary to allow all those who have requested to speak a chance to be heard.

The Santa Clarita area 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 Clarita area residents 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 6, 1996. Comments should be sent to MTA Article 8 Hearing Record, P.O. Box 194, Los Angeles, CA 90053, attention Renee Berlin, mail stop 22-03.

For information about TDA funds or the public hearing, call Renee Berlin at (213) 922-3035.

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