



NEWS

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MTA RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT FOR LANI PROJECTS; AGENCY TO ADMINISTER \$1.6 MILLION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Peña today presented a \$1.6 million grant for transportation projects to eight Los Angeles neighborhoods as part of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative.

The grant, administered by the MTA for use by the City of Los Angeles, will fund security enhancements at bus stops and on-line equipment for Transit Community Stores.

"The partnership between the Federal Government, the MTA and the City of Los Angeles proves that we can all work together to improve our communities," said Larry Zarian, MTA chairman. "We should all be proud of the impact that LANI projects are having in improving the quality of life in these neighborhoods."

Improvements will include the installation of security cameras at bus shelters and stops; on-line equipment to provide transit information at transit stores; and lights adjacent to transit stops to increase security.

"The presence of the cameras and street lights will increase the public's feeling of security and deter crime at bus stops," said Joseph E. Drew, MTA chief executive officer.

Transportation Secretary Peña announced the grant at a ceremony in Boyle Heights, one of eight neighborhood demonstration projects earmarked for LANI funds.

"The improvements that this grant will bring are crucial to Boyle Heights, which is one of the city's historic neighborhoods," said Los Angeles City Councilman and MTA Board Member Richard Alatorre.

"Improved security will encourage walking, biking and the use of public transportation along First Street, one of the most heavily used in the city."

Other LANI areas include Highland Park, Jefferson Corridor, Vermont Square, Virgil Corridor, Sun Valley, NOHO Arts District and Leimert Park Village.

LANI projects focus on street revitalization in transit dependent, low income areas.

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