



# NEWS

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## MTA ANNOUNCES FINAL WORKSHOPS FOR SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD TRANSIT PARKWAY STUDY

The MTA is looking for ways to turn Santa Monica Boulevard into a more pleasant appearing, less congested major thoroughfare - allowing both motorists and bus riders to proceed at a swifter pace because of improved traffic flow.

"The public will have another opportunity to influence the final plan to widen and beautify Santa Monica Boulevard (between the 405 Freeway and the Beverly Hills city limit at Moreno Drive ) at the MTA's third and final Project Refinement Study community workshops, Nov. 13 and Nov. 20," said Joseph E. Drew, MTA's Chief Executive Officer.

"The MTA's Project Team has made a concerted effort to reach out and listen," Drew added. "We've already conducted two public workshops, and we look forward to receiving additional feedback at this workshop so it can be incorporated into the final recommendation."

A central feature of the new boulevard would be a single main roadway with greatly simplified intersections to improve safety and lessen congestion. Various configurations of one-way or two-way frontage roads are under consideration, some of which would resemble portions of the existing "Little" Santa Monica Boulevard.

The project could be accentuated by extensive center median

MORE...

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SCHEDULED, Page 2

landscaping, improved sidewalks and bus stops, pedestrian crosswalks plus an array of possible amenities, including bicycle lanes and other street beautification features.

"The most important decisions involve the exact number of lanes, the availability of parking, and the arrangement of frontage roads off the main thoroughfare," Drew said. "That's why we want to hear from the public."

Since February, the MTA's Project Team has worked extensively with residents, businesses and other stakeholders to evaluate alternative concepts for improving Santa Monica Boulevard. The MTA has also communicated with the community through separate task force presentations, a public survey, and a 11,500 circulation newsletter containing the latest updates.

"Since this project is obviously very important, we encourage the full participation of the community at these final, very informative workshops," said Larry Zarian, MTA Board Chairman. "This is a perfect setting for the project team to interact with the public and directly address their concerns."

Prior to the previous workshops, July 31 and Aug. 7, alternate concepts were scaled back from seven to four, which will be narrowed further after the next workshop, before the MTA Board makes an expected final selection in January 1997.

The Wednesday, November 13 workshop meeting will be held at Emerson Middle School student cafeteria, 1560 Selby Avenue in Los Angeles, 4-8 p.m. On Wednesday, November 20, the workshop will be held in the Community Room, 2029 Century Park East, Suite #410, in Los Angeles, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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