



# NEWS

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## **MTA TRAFFIC SIGNAL COORDINATION PROJECT YIELDS DIVIDENDS FOR SOUTH BAY DRIVERS TRAVERSING 300 IMPROVED INTERSECTIONS**

A traffic signal coordination program in the South Bay funded by the MTA is saving drivers both time and money and helping clean the air.

According to a before-and-after study presented to the MTA Board recently, the \$3.2 million project, approved in the MTA's Call for Projects process in 1994 and awarded to the South Bay Council of Governments, has resulted in \$6.3 million in benefits to drivers who regularly travel along Pacific Coast Highway, Sepulveda and Hawthorne boulevards, as well as Western Avenue. The pilot project, which primarily has focused on the improvement of more than 300 signalized intersections, is 80 percent complete.

The study, conducted by Meyer Mohaddes Associates, estimates that drivers are saving one cent per mile, up to \$100 per year as a result of better fuel economy and less automobile wear and tear. Regular users of these highways are saving 30 hours a year.

"The coordination of the signals has created a more even traffic flow, which translates into less stop and go driving and has reduced emissions by 13 tons a year," said Linda Bohlinger, MTA's Interim CEO.

"Smoother traffic flow means less wear and tear on automobiles and less stress on drivers," continued Bohlinger. "This program really has helped calm nerves and reduce congestion in the South Bay.

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"The MTA played a major role in guiding the project along but we would be remiss in not mentioning the assistance of all local South Bay communities and Caltrans," added Bohlinger.

Since the 1991 debut of the Call for Projects, the MTA has allocated nearly \$1.4 billion for such projects as the South Bay's pilot signalization program, freeway carpool lanes, major street widening efforts, freeway ramps, bus system improvements, ridesharing incentives, transit centers, park-n-ride lots and regional bikeways.

The MTA Board is scheduled to act on the next Call for Projects on June 25.

Overall, approximately \$60 million in Call for Projects funds - primarily derived from Los Angeles County sales tax monies - has been allocated for projects similar to the one in the South Bay.

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