



NEWS

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MTA MAJOR FUNDER OF BIKEWAYS, OTHER BIKE PROGRAMS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

MTA is a sponsor of Southern California Bike to Work Day May 17, but the transportation agency's commitment to promoting bicycling as an alternative travel mode is a year-round effort.

In the past eight years MTA has provided an estimated \$62 million for 94 bikeway projects in Los Angeles County. These include bike paths along the Los Angeles River and other locations as well as bike lanes on surface streets and street under and over crossings, bike stations, and signage. In addition, MTA has spent more than \$5 million on bike lockers and racks at Metro Rail and Metrolink stations and other public facilities to encourage commuters to bike to work, and also for education of children on safe riding habits and other bike expenditures.

All new Metro buses come equipped with bike racks in the front of the bus. To date, about 1,500 Metro buses can hold two bikes at a time. Cyclists can ride for no additional charge anytime on Metro buses equipped with bike racks. Cyclists also can bring their bikes on Metro Rail and Metrolink trains for no additional charge. Since Metro Rail trains may be full during weekday rush hours MTA only allows bikes on its trains during non-peak hours during the week and on weekends.

It is estimated that bicyclists make 2.4 percent of all the daily travel trips in Los Angeles County. MTA's goal by the year 2025 is to double the number of bike trips to 5 percent to ease traffic congestion in the face of growing population and the influx of more motor vehicles.

Toward that end, MTA envisions a network of 1,800 bike path and street bike lane miles in Los Angeles County. Today about 500 miles are in place.

More...

1st Add/MTA Bike Programs

Each year MTA awards about \$7 million to the various cities and County of Los Angeles for bike projects. In its draft Long Range Transportation Plan, a blueprint for transportation planning in Los Angeles County through the year 2025, MTA proposes raising annual bike expenditures to \$10 million a year and up to \$20 million, if funding becomes available. Bike projects are funded primarily with federal transportation funds and some local and state monies distributed through the MTA.

For more information on MTA bike programs and public transportation connections call 1-800 COMMUTE. To request a bike map of all bike routes in the City of Los Angeles, call (213) 485-9957. A map showing all bike routes in Los Angeles County is being updated and will be published by MTA next year. To request more information about MTA's funding goals for bike programs, call Lynne Goldsmith in the MTA Planning Department at (213) 922-3068.