



NEWS

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PUBLIC LETS MTA HAVE IT, GOOD, BAD & UGLY IN *STAKEHOLDERS* WEB SITE; INTERACTIVE PAGE ATTRACTING PRO AND CON COMMENTS

The MTA is encouraging the public to let their feelings be known about transportation issues in "Connections," an interactive feature offered on the MTA's Internet "Stakeholders" at www.mta.net. The result has been an interesting and provocative mix of praise and *constructive criticism*.

To access Stakeholders, click on the Stakeholders link in upper left-hand side of the page, which, in an instant, brings you to the "Stakeholders" home page where "Connections" is listed.

At the "Connections" page, click on either "Ask the MTA" or "We Get Mail Letters" to find out what's on people's minds, or to submit a question.

Inquiries to Ask the MTA have included the deployment of undercover police officers on buses and trains, the possibility of power outages affecting rail service, Metro Rapid stations, and the prohibition against bicycles on trains during peak periods.

On the "We get Mail Letters" pages, Internet users have provided several comments – from tame to tirades – on an article by former MTA Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, currently running on the Stakeholders' "View from the Top" page. Other writers have commented on clean air technology, applying Metro Blue Line lessons learned to the Pasadena Blue Line, and Westside traffic.

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Other Stakeholders sections that draw public interest are "Get Involved," which lists public meetings, tours and other MTA activities, "Speakers Bureau" and "Scoop," the MTA's Internet newsletter.

Scoop currently is running stories about negotiations with several developers about investing in mixed-used projects at Metro Rail stations; the huge increase in Metro System ridership as a result of high gasoline prices; and an MTA plan to increase public transit services to welfare recipients, plus much more.

In addition, chronicled in "The 110," a separate feature of Scoop that chronicles MTA employees making an extra effort, is a story about MTA public affairs director Lynda Bybee who left a career as a performing arts theater manager and producer for life in an even faster lane.

Members of the public also frequently access the "Pressroom" pages on the MTA's web site to read agency news releases, view the "Photo Gallery" or find statistical and background information about the agency in either English or Spanish.