

# Metro News Pressroom

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## **MTA SETS PUBLIC HEARINGS IN LANCASTER AND PALMDALE TO DETERMINE USE OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDS**

The MTA will conduct a public hearing in Palmdale and Lancaster to receive ideas and suggestions for meeting public transportation needs in the Antelope Valley.

The first hearing on Thursday, March 11 will be held in Lancaster at the Lancaster City Council Chambers, 44933 North Fern Avenue. On Saturday, March 13, a second hearing will be held in Palmdale at the Chimbole Cultural Center, 38300 Sierra Highway. Both hearings begin at 10 a.m. and continue until the last speaker or for two hours, whichever is earlier.

The Transportation Development Act (TDA) of 1971 requires that one-fourth of the 6 percent state sales tax revenue collected in Los Angeles County be returned to the County for public transportation purposes.

Article 8 of the TDA stipulates that a proportional share of the sales tax revenue be allocated to areas in the County that do not have MTA service. Article 8 applies to approximately 5 percent of the County population that resides in the Santa Clarita Valley, Antelope Valley and Santa Catalina Island.

TDA funds must be spent for public transit purposes when a legitimate need for transit service can be identified. However, if no "unmet transit needs" are found, sales tax revenue may be used for street and road purposes.

Each year, the MTA holds public hearings in areas outside the Agency's service area to determine if any unmet transit needs exist. Following the hearings, and after receiving input from the Hearing Board and Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, the MTA will decide whether there are unmet transit needs in the Antelope Valley.

Those unable to attend the hearing may submit written comments to MTA by March 31, 2004. Comments should be sent to the MTA Article 8 Hearing Record, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Attention: Susan Richan (mail stop 99-23-4).

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