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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRO GATEWAY CITIES COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE SECTOR TO HOLD MARCH TOWN HALL MEETINGS IN THE CITY OF BELL

The Metro Gateway Cities Service Sector will be co-hosting a Town Hall meeting with the City of Bell at their Community Center located at 6250 Pine Ave. beginning at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 24.

The meeting is one of a series of community meetings being conducted by MTA to update the public on various transportation issues pertaining to Metro Bus service provided in the Gateway Cities region, which includes cities in Southeast Los Angeles County.

In addition to presenting information on Metro Bus services, public comment is encouraged on how bus service can be improved in the City of Bell and the surrounding communities.

Additional Gateway Cities Town Hall meetings will be held on March 24 in Cudahy at the Clara Street Park, 4835 Clara St., at 7 p.m. and in the City of South Gate on Thursday, March 25 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Girls Club House, located at 4930 Southern Ave.

MTA decentralized its bus operations two years ago by implementing five community-based transit service sectors. The sectors were designed to improve bus service by soliciting community input and working with city staff to help improve the reliability, customer satisfaction and trip planning opportunities for patrons who rely on Metro services.

Sector staff has been meeting with representatives of the 26 cities and areas of unincorporated LA County in the Gateway Cities sector area to better understand the transit needs of their communities.

"We have conducted a number of Town Hall meetings since the introduction of the sectors and have found they provide an excellent way of receiving customer input on our scheduling plans," said Gateway Cities General Manager Alex Clifford. "I'm looking forward to meeting and hearing from our customers at the March Town Hall meetings, and hope to get a better understanding of the interests and needs of bus riders in the communities we serve."

These will be the first Town Hall meetings the Gateway Cities sector has conducted in the cities of Bell, Cudahy and South Gate. Meetings have previously been conducted in the cities of Huntington Park, Downey, Norwalk, Bellflower, Paramount, Artesia and Pico Rivera. Additional Town Hall meetings are currently being scheduled in other communities in the Gateway Cities region later in the year.

For specific Metro route and schedule information visit Metro's Web site at www.metro.net and use the Metro trip planner or call 1-800-C-O-M-M-U-T-E. The Gateway Cities Sector office is located in Downey at 7878 Telegraph Road. Staff can be reached by calling (213) 922-4395.

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