



February 16, 2005

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro Plans Two Santa Clarita Valley Public Hearings March 2 to Determine Use of Transportation Funds

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) will conduct two public hearings in the Santa Clarita Valley on Wednesday, March 2 to receive ideas and suggestions for meeting public transportation needs in the Santa Clarita Valley area.

The hearings will be held at the Santa Clarita City Hall, Orchard Room, 23920 Valencia Blvd., at 2 p.m. and again at 6 p.m. The second public hearing is being held for those individuals unable to attend the first hearing during the day. Both hearings will be held until the last speaker or two hours, whichever comes first.

Article 8 of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) stipulates that a proportional share of the sales tax revenue be allocated to areas in Los Angeles County that do not have Metro 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 Metro 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, Metro will decide whether there are unmet transit needs in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Those unable to attend the hearing may submit written comments to Metro by April 5, 2005. Comments should be sent to Metro, Article 8 Hearing Record, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Attention: Susan Richan (mail stop 99-23-3). For information regarding TDA funds or the public hearing, contact Susan Richan at (213) 922-3017.

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