



Flexcar will be "another tool in the MTA tool box," CEO Roger Snoble announced at Friday's media event. Flexcar Chairman Neil Peterson, right, said Flexcar "makes so much sense here in Los Angeles."

MTA, Flexcar Unite Transit, Private Autos in New Car-Sharing Service

- [MTA employee program](#): A special arrangement between the agency and Flexcar will entitle employees to membership discounts.

By RICK JAGER

PHOTOS BY BILL HEARD

(Aug. 15 2003) MTA and Flexcar, the nation's largest and oldest provider of car-sharing programs, today officially launched an innovative on-demand service during a media event at MTA Headquarters.



Under a broad agreement, MTA employees, users of public transit, vanpools, carpools, Metrolink and Amtrak will have access to a car when they need one during workdays to run errands, go to the doctor or other appointments.

Flexcar CEO Lance Ayrault shows MTA's Jami Carrington how a SmartCard held next to a decal on the rear window will open the car doors.

"Flexcar will be another tool in the MTA tool box," said CEO Roger Snoble. "It will give people the opportunity and ability to ride transit, but if they have a special destination to go to, they'll have a way to get there. That's what Flexcar is all about."

MTA employee program

Beginning Sept. 8, MTA employees may enroll through the Employee Rideshare Program as Flexcar members. A special arrangement between the agency and Flexcar will entitle employees to membership discounts. Two Honda Civic gas/electric hybrid Flexcars are located in the MTA parking lot for the convenience of employee members.



Other units of Flexcar's 26-car Greater Los Angeles fleet, will be available at Union Station and at the Long Beach Bike station near

the Transit Mall Metro Blue Line station. Flexcars also may be checked out at stations along the Metro Gold Line and at locations in Pasadena, Burbank and Santa Monica.

"It's a pleasure to be introducing a concept I think makes so much sense here in Los Angeles," said Neil Peterson, Flexcar's founder and chairman. "You can now have confidence that if you take transit...no matter what happens, you've got a car available during the day...."

Although Flexcar currently has a nationwide fleet of just over 300 cars – at locations in Seattle, Portland, San Diego, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. – CEO Lance Ayrault expects the company to have 2,500 vehicles stationed in Los Angeles, alone, within the next five years.

How Flexcar works

A one-time, lifetime membership fee of \$25 is required to join Flexcar. There also is a \$10 hourly user plan and a monthly plan with varying charges according to individual needs. The pricing includes gasoline, insurance, car cleaning, maintenance and parking at a Flexcar location, and of course, the vehicle.

A typical Flexcar is a new model, four-door Honda Civic hybrid although gas/electric hybrid pickups, vans and larger sedans are offered. All vehicles are located in well-lit, easily accessible locations.

Members can make reservations anytime from a year to a minute in advance. To drive a Flexcar, members use a SmartCard to open the doors and enter a personal PIN code into an dash-mounted computer key pad prior to starting the car. Trip data is sent wirelessly from an on-board computer to Flexcar, which sends the member a bill once a month based on use.

For more information about Flexcar, visit the www.mta.net home page and click on the "Can I borrow a car" link on the center scroll feature or go directly to the Flexcar web site at www.flexcar.com/losangeles or call Flexcar at (213) 482-3539.

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