



# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2001 CALL FOR PROJECTS TOTALS \$893.4 MILLION

### **BOARD FUNDS 218 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN 2001 CALL FOR PROJECTS PROGRAM**

The MTA Board of Directors today approved the largest amount of money ever made available in one cycle of the MTA-administered Call for Projects program that funds transit projects that range from bikeways to freeway HOV (carpool) lanes. The Board earmarked \$893.4 million over the next six years for 218 regionally significant transportation improvement projects in Los Angeles County.

The Call for Projects is a process that MTA created to allocate discretionary transportation funds to projects that local jurisdictions, transit operators, MTA and other public agencies propose to implement. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis to projects that successfully demonstrate significant mobility benefits.

The 2001 Call for Projects programs funds for transportation improvement projects in nine categories:

- Freeway HOV, TOS and Gap Closures
- Regional Surface Transportation Improvements
- Signal Synchronization & Bus Speed Improvements
- Transportation Demand Management
- Bikeway Improvements
- Pedestrian Improvements
- Transit Capital

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- Transportation Enhancement Activities
- Regionally Significant Projects

The following is a sampling of the projects funded by today's Board action:

**Freeway HOV (Carpool) Lanes and Gap Closures**

**SB 405 HOV Lane and Auxiliary Lane – Caltrans Project No. 52 in the TCRP  
\$27,042,000**

The project is for one HOV lane and one auxiliary lane southbound on I-405 between Waterford Street and I-10. The project will close the gap for the HOV lane on southbound I-405. Recommended amount will complete the funding for the project.

**Regional Surface Transportation Improvements**

**SR-14 Freeway/Avenue I Interchange Improvements – City of Lancaster  
\$5,351,000**

This project will improve SR-14 I interchange by widening Ave I from two to three lanes in each direction, adding dual left turn lanes, and widening a bridge structure to accommodate a new off-ramp. The existing southbound off-ramp will be removed and a new loop ramp will be constructed at Avenue I and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street West. Funds requested are for design and construction costs.

**Signal Synchronization & Bus Speed Improvements**

**Incident Management-Traveler Information subsystem – City of Santa Clarita  
\$950,300**

The project involves the installation of a traveler information system consisting of four stationary electronic Changeable Message Signs (CMS) and a Highway Advisory Radio System (HAR) to cover the entire city of Santa Clarita. The interim locations for the CMSs are San Fernando Road/ Sierra Highway, Solead Canyon/ Sierra Highway, Bouquet Canyon Road/ Newhall Ranch Road, and Lyons Avenue/ Wiley Canyon Road. Four Antennas that will cover the entire City of Santa Clarita will be installed for the HAR system.

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**Transportation Demand Management**

**Los Angeles and Surrounding Communities Bicycle Map Los Angeles  
\$216,000**

This project will fund the creation of a website that will include a map of all the bicycle routes in the Los Angeles County region. The website will enable commuters who wish to travel by bicycle to identify the quickest and safest routes available. In addition to the map, other bicycle-related information will be available (i.e., events, safety tips and new bike routes soon to be constructed).

**Bikeway Improvements**

**San Fernando Valley East-West Bike Path - City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation  
\$5,199,000**

Design and construction of 11 miles of Class I and II bike facilities in the San Fernando Valley from Warner Center in Woodland Hills on the west to the 170 Hollywood Freeway on the east. This project will share the MTA-owned Chandler Blvd. right-of-way with a proposed transit project.

**Pedestrian Improvements**

**Pasadena Civic Center/Mid Town Public Improvements Project – City of Pasadena  
\$2,832,000**

This project will implement a series of streetscape improvements designed to facilitate pedestrian circulation on public streets within Pasadena's civic center, and provide pedestrian linkages to existing bus stops and the Pasadena Blue Line's planned Holly Street Station. These improvements will be located on eight street segments within an area bounded by Walnut Street to the north, Cordova Street to the south, Arroyo Parkway to the west, and Los Robles Avenue to the east. The improvements include sidewalk extensions at major intersections, upgraded sidewalk and crosswalk paving, pedestrian lighting, and landscaping.

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Transit Capital

**Rolling Stock Maintenance Facility on San Bernardino Line – Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA)**  
**\$7,886,000**

This project will reduce costs associated with non-revenue mileage, allow a longer maintenance period, and allow for future growth in Metrolink service. Currently, SCRRA does not have available space to park additional trains for the San Bernardino, Riverside, and Inland Empire/Orange County Lines, though patronage is growing steadily, and several coaches and locomotives are on order. Additional funding for this project will be provided by the other SCRRA member counties.

Transportation Enhancement Activities

**Los Angeles Green Corridors – Los Angeles**  
**\$565,000**

2,600 trees will be planted along thirty-eight major transportation routes throughout the City of Los Angeles. The trees will be planted on major routes to transportation facilities, transit priority streets, and scenic highways. This will make the streets shadier, healthier, and more scenic for commuters and pedestrians.

Regionally Significant Projects

**Signal Systems Technician Training Program**  
**\$571,000**

This project will provide professional training to enhance technical abilities in the areas of traffic signal controllers, data communications, and provide training on the use of bus priority technology and other advanced signal technologies for jurisdictions and transit organizations with the Los Angeles County region.

The last regular Call for Projects was held in the spring of 1999 when the MTA programmed slightly more than \$500 million for 196 projects.

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Last summer, in a special Call for Projects, \$250.7 million was allocated to 82 projects. Money for the special call became available when Governor Gray Davis announced his Transportation 2000 Initiative and Assembly Bill 1012 allowed the MTA to advance \$71 million from future Call for Projects.

Traditionally, transportation projects that have received Call for Projects funding have included: transit centers, freeway gap closures and carpool lanes, arterial widenings, signal synchronization, new bus and shuttle purchases, bikeways and pedestrian improvements.

A total of 372 transportation requests totaling \$1.7 billion were submitted to the MTA for the 2001 Call for Projects. About 75 percent of the funds available in the 2001 Call for Projects will come from state and federal funding sources.

As a result of today's MTA Board approval of the 2001 Call for Projects, the program of projects will be transmitted to the Southern California Association of Government (SCAG) and the California Transportation Commission for processing.

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