



NEWS

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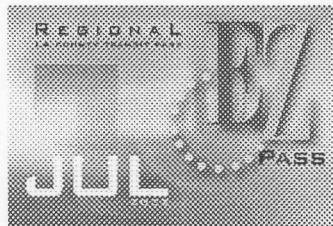
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PASS TO DEBUT SUMMER 2002

MTA BOARD APPROVES FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND REGIONAL TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM FOR L.A. COUNTY

The MTA Board has taken a major step toward providing transit riders seamless service countywide by approving a regional pass program.

Beginning in Summer 2002, transit riders who use the services of more than one of a dozen Southland transit operators will have the option of using a monthly regional pass called EZpass. EZpass will be valid for unlimited travel on the Metro Bus and Rail systems and on the fixed route bus systems of 11 municipal operators.



“Many riders use more than one transit system, a situation which up until now has produced confusion and frustration by forcing them to carry extra cash or purchase additional transit passes,” said John Fasana, MTA Board Chair. “Much like the European Union, MTA and these 11 municipal operators have agreed on a common ‘currency’ that will end the confusion and frustration, and, we believe, encourage thousands of other commuters to try public transit.”

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"EZpass also will make for quicker boardings and eliminate the need for transfers and tickets," Fasana added.

EZpass will be priced at \$58 for a regular pass, \$29 for seniors, and \$29 for the disabled (with appropriate identification including either an MTA Disabled ID card, Medicare card, LACTOA card or DMV placard).

EZpass will entitle the pass holder to unlimited local travel on all MTA buses and trains and on the fixed route bus systems of the following municipal transit operators: Culver City Municipal Bus Lines, Foothill Transit, Montebello Bus Lines, Gardena Municipal Bus Lines, Commerce Municipal Bus Lines, Long Beach Transit, Norwalk Transit, Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus, Torrance Transit, Santa Clarita Transit and LADOT (Los Angeles Department of Transportation).

When it goes on sale, EZpass will be available at most Metro Pass sales outlets and other outlets countywide.

The multi-operator task force that developed EZpass and the regional pass program will encourage future participation of other local transit providers, Metrolink and other counties. The cost of the program for fiscal year 2003 will be approximately \$2 million, which will be paid from Proposition A and C local transit sales tax funds.

EZpass represents the first major phase of a universal fare system (UFS). Within three years, MTA will debut an electronic smart card that will be accepted by the aforementioned transit providers, Metrolink and paratransit service providers.

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