



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

September 15, 1995

818 West Seventh Street
Suite 300
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TO: MTA BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

FROM: JIM SMART 

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SUBJECT: UPCOMING ARTICLES IN LOS ANGELES TIMES

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The Times is expected soon to publish two articles on the MTA. One will feature information on the Gateway Transit Center and our new headquarters. We have stressed the cost effectiveness of the new facilities and the importance of the Center as a regional hub for transit. The first group of employees is scheduled to move into the building this weekend.

The second article is expected to focus on the Authority's construction safety program, with particular attention to monetary incentives to contractors who maintain good safety records. As you know, there has been considerable controversy over the MTA's past program which granted contractors cash awards based on a measurement of frequency of accidents. We now have instituted new criteria which focus both on frequency and severity, reducing the chance of a contractor incurring one or two severe accidents, yet obtaining the full cash amount for which they were eligible.

Our safety program, including its incentive awards, is modeled on other programs used at other transit properties. We have modified the program, and continue to do so based on experience. Despite several high-profile accidents, our safety program is considered to be one of the best in the industry.