



March 7, 2003

Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA  
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**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE**   
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**FROM: JAMES L. de la LOZA**   
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING**

**SUBJECT: SUB-REGIONAL PARATRANSIT PROJECTS**

### ISSUE

At its May 2002 meeting, the MTA Board of Directors approved funding for seven new sub-regional paratransit projects. At that time, Director Allison Yoh asked that staff report back on ways to better coordinate sub-regional paratransit projects with Access Services Incorporated (ASI) and to better communicate these projects to the general public.

### DISCUSSION

In Los Angeles County, the MTA funds sixteen sub-regional paratransit projects which carry approximately two million passenger boardings per year. These projects are multi-jurisdictional and coordinated, and they provide greater transit mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities. They are also more cost-effective, needing \$12 on average per trip, versus \$30 or more for Access Services (ASI). The MTA funds up to 25 percent of the net operating costs, with each municipality paying the remainder. Thus, the MTA pays \$3 per trip and each municipality pays \$9 per trip. MTA funding allows the region to leverage Proposition A funds in a cost-efficient manner.

MTA staff has been working closely with the municipalities to implement new projects that the MTA Board approved in May 2002. Highlights include the City of Agoura Hills/Los Angeles County (added Saturday service) and new coordinated projects between Beverly Hills and West Hollywood (additional vehicle/started Fall 2002), Whittier and La Habra Heights (expanded service area/started Fall 2002) and Norwalk and Santa Fe Spring (expanded service area/starting Winter 2003).

In response to Director Yoh's motion, Staff developed an implementation plan to ensure that existing and new sub-regional paratransit projects are better communicated to the disabled community, as well as to the general public. The implementation plan includes the tasks shown in the following chart:

TASK	DUE DATE
Communicate Sub-Regional Paratransit Program to MTA and ASI advisory committees. (A survey was conducted and 67% of advisory committee members indicated that they had not used sub-regional paratransit recently. Of those who did, CITYRIDE [LADOT] and Pasadena were the most popular. Eighty-five percent of users indicated that they use the dial-a-rides from 1 to 4 times per month.)	Completed
Work with ASI staff to update the RideInfo database regularly and include information on all Sub-Regional Paratransit projects.	On-going
Promote Sub-Regional Paratransit Program at ASI community meetings.	On-going
Promote Sub-Regional Paratransit Program at MTA service sector/community meetings.	On-going
Add link on MTA web site for the Sub-Regional Paratransit Program	02/28/03
Add link on MTA web site for Project Action, an Easter Seals project that emphasizes transit independence for persons with disabilities.	02/28/03

**NEXT STEPS**

Staff will continue to explore other ideas and opportunities to better coordinate and communicate sub-regional and paratransit projects to ASI and other users of these services.