

MetroRail

IS THERE LIFE AFTER MTA?

by Marcelle Zonta

On May 19, FHRA held its annual membership meeting at the new library. The turnout was very gratifying. One of the topics on the agenda was the new section of the Red Line slated to open on June 12, 1999.

Now this is indeed wonderful after many years of trials, tribulations and sinking streets. We are finally going to have our lovely, fast, new, clean subway. But alas, there is one tiny catch: we, the residents of Franklin Hills, will be unable to take advantage of this new form of transportation unless we are willing to hike almost two miles to get there. Forget about driving to the station – there is no parking at Sunset and Vermont, and no DASH has been assigned to us.

Now this is indeed a pretty kettle of fish; the MTA wants ridership, but how do they expect to get riders when a whole area cannot get to the station.

With this in mind, I made a few phone calls; I was directed to Phil Acre of LADOT who on two days notice, kindly consented to speak at the FHRA meeting.

He informed us that a restructuring study was made to adjust MTA and the existing LADOT to create a Franklin Hills Los Feliz DASH. Every year money from MTA funds new transit projects. The funding for the DASH vehicles were ranked by community in order of need. There were 29 projects funded. We were thirtieth. We will have to wait another year until new applications are again accepted. I do not think we should have to wait that long. We should have some form of transportation to the subway – period.

Vince Rossini, Councilman John Ferraro's representative for this area, suggested we send a letter to Councilman Ferraro stating how we feel about this situation, and that we want a shuttle. After all, if we do not raise a bit of a ruckus, we will have nothing – squeaky wheel and all that!

I will do my best to keep you informed. Call the Hotline (664-7247) with your suggestions and your questions.

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