



**Metro**

# Daily Brief

Thursday February 9, 2006

20060209-0

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## **FTA Unveils Annual Report on New Starts**

As part of the Bush Administration's budget submission to Congress, the Federal Transit Administration released its Annual Report on New Starts: Proposed Allocation of Funds for Fiscal Year 2007.

The report, which is required by federal statute, constitutes the Administration's recommendations to Congress for New Starts funding in FY07. It provides detailed information on New Starts projects in different stages of development. For projects with existing Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGA), including the Eastside LRT project, the report includes a project profile as well as a summary of its current construction status and anticipated ridership. On the other hand, for prospective projects seeking an FFGA that have received prior FTA approval to engage in preliminary engineering and final design, the report also includes detailed evaluations and ratings.

The report notes that the Exposition LRT project was evaluated in last year's report but is no longer being reviewed under the evaluation and ratings process due to Metro's decision in April 2005 to withdraw the project from further New Starts consideration.

In addition to Eastside, the report profiles three other existing FFGA's in California: Mission Valley East LRT Extension (San Diego), Oceanside-Escondido LRT Extension, and the BART Extension to San Francisco Airport. The report also provides ratings for projects in the New Starts pipeline, including proposed light rail extensions in Sacramento and San Francisco. Both of these projects are the only California projects currently approved by FTA to conduct preliminary engineering activities, which means they are likely to be the next FFGA's awarded in California.

To obtain a copy of the Annual Reports on New Starts, click on the following link:

[http://www.fta.dot.gov/18022\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://www.fta.dot.gov/18022_ENG_HTML.htm)

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