



Metro™

DECEMBER 29, 2009

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ARTHUR T. LEAHY *AL*
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: MATT RAYMOND *MR*
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

SUBJECT: CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE IN SUBWAY STATIONS

ISSUE

At the September Board meeting, Director Najarian requested that staff consider a proposal to allow transmission of text messages in the Metro Rail subway tunnels, once it is determined that this would not compromise security on the system.

DISCUSSION

Currently customers riding the Metro Purple and Metro Red Lines are not able to use their cellular phones in the stations and tunnels. During the September meeting, a member of the public during public comment requested that service be enabled in the subway system to allow customers to send and receive text messages on their cell phones.

Staff had not pursued opening up subway stations to cellular service due to past concerns about security raised by law enforcement. However, the security concern has been resolved. Recently staff consulted with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department given their responsibility for security on the transit system, and staff determined that allowing access to cellular service does not compromise security on the subway system. Therefore, staff will develop and issue a request for proposal to make such services accessible to subway system customers and will allow cellular phone service and text messaging along the system.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will develop a request for proposal statement of work. The Board will be notified of project progress at key milestone points.