

Will Pasadena Get a 'Rose Line'? Board to Consider Name, Other Issues

UPDATE  Feb. 17, 2000

(Feb. 15) Should the area's newest light-rail line be named the "Pasadena Rose Line"? That question and others are expected to be discussed during MTA Board committee meetings Feb. 16 and 17.

Committee agendas include motions to provide job protection for MTA employees affected by proposed transit zones and changes in bus service to accommodate the opening of the North Hollywood extension. Committees also will hear reports on Metro Blue Line safety projects and the impact of tougher AQMD regulations.

Here are some of the Board items to watch this month:

Operations Committee, Feb. 16, 1 p.m.

 **UPDATE**  **Item 11 - Report received.** Staff reported that the AQMD now has divided Rule 1190 into six new proposed rules. Rule 1191 would govern light- and medium-duty public agency fleets, such as the MTA's non-revenue vehicles. Rule 1192 would require all new transit buses to be alternative fuel vehicles. The proposed rule would prohibit diesel fuels of any type. Rules 1193, 1194, 1195 and 1196 would cover other types of public vehicles, including school buses and heavy-duty vehicles, such as postal trucks. The committee will receive a status report on the fiscal impact to the MTA of the AQMD's proposed Rule 1190. The rule would require all fleets of public vehicles to convert to alternative fuels.

 **UPDATE** **Item 12 - Report received.** Staff reported that it would cost approximately \$50 million per intersection to construct grade separations along the Metro Blue Line alignment. The total cost could reach \$1.5 billion. The committee will receive a report on Metro Blue Line safety activities. Among a number of MTA efforts, the report describes the testing of experimental four-quadrant railroad crossing gates, which are intended to provide an extra measure of safety for motorists and pedestrians at rail intersections.

 **UPDATE** **Item 14 - Approved unanimously,** sent forward to full Board. MTA Director Michael Antonovich has filed a motion to rename the Metro Blue Line to Pasadena as the "Pasadena Rose Line." The motion is intended "to eliminate possible confusion with the existing (Metro Blue Line)...and to better represent the community which will be served...."

Construction Committee, Feb. 16, 3 p.m.

Item 21 - The committee will receive a report from the Tunnel Advisory Panel on the MTA's compliance with blasting restrictions and the impact of groundwater during the construction of Metro Red Line tunnels beneath the Santa Monica Mountains.

Executive Management Committee, Feb. 17, 2 p.m.

UPDATE  **Item 32 - Postponed.** The committee will hear a monthly status report on the Pasadena Blue Line Joint Powers Authority's activities.

UPDATE  **Item 35 - Postponed.** The committee will consider support for the vision and goals of the Southern California Intercity Rail Group (SCIRG). According to a Board report, the MTA's support will help SCIRG "work to expand and integrate rail services in Southern California...(and would help the MTA) attract state intercity rail funding to Los Angeles."

UPDATE  **Item 36 - Postponed.** The committee is expected to take up the motion again at its March meeting. Director Jenny Oropeza proposes a motion that would prohibit the MTA from approving "the creation of any transportation zone unless the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) governing the zone assumes the collective bargaining agreements, rights, and obligations that currently exist between the MTA and the labor organizations representing employees who will be affected or displaced by the creation of the zone. The JPA...will be obligated to employ those employees of the MTA...who will be displaced...."

Planning and Programming Committee, Feb. 17, 1 p.m.

Item 41 - The committee will hear a report on MTA funds or projects that could be reprogrammed by the state as a result of Governor Gray Davis' "use it or lose it" policy.

UPDATE  **Item 42 - Sent forward** to the full Board with motions by two committee members. One motion concerns the effect of service changes on Metro Bus patrons; the other concerns maintaining express lines following the opening of MOS-3. The committee will consider adopting changes to a number of Metro Bus lines in June, 2000, as part of the restructuring plan once Metro Red Line service opens to North Hollywood. The committee also will consider adopting a free fare on the Metro Red Line for the opening weekend of the North Hollywood extension.

The Finance and Budget Committee met at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 17.

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