

[GO TO> Board actions](#)

Board Approves Land Exchange for New Bus Division in West LA

- **New, larger facility will help meet area's growing demand for service**

By DAVE SOTERO

(Sept. 25, 2003) The MTA Board today approved an agreement with RAD Jefferson, LLC, on plans to exchange MTA's antiquated bus yard property in Venice for construction of a new bus division in a more centralized, industrial area of West Los Angeles.

The land-swap agreement will enable MTA to better meet current and future public transit demand in the Westside/Central area of Los Angeles, which contains some of MTA's most heavily traveled bus lines.

The motion approved by the Board included an amendment by Supervisor Yvonne Burke directing MTA and the developer to work closely with the community during the environmental review process and construction period. The amendment also requires full mitigation of increased traffic and noise in the neighborhood caused by buses and employees' cars.

Under the exchange agreement, MTA will swap its 3.13-acre facility, located in Venice, for a 4.66-acre site, now vacant, located on Jefferson Boulevard between Rodeo and National in West Los Angeles.

Before the swap occurs, RAD Jefferson, LLC, would build a state-of-the-art bus division for MTA complete with CNG fueling. With the Venice division valued at \$12.9 million, the agreement calls for MTA to contribute \$8 million to make up the difference in the cost of the newly built division.

Outgrown Venice property

"MTA has long outgrown the Venice property," said Deputy CEO John Catoe. "MTA and its predecessor agencies have used this facility for more than 100 years. It remains our smallest and oldest bus division."

"We now have the opportunity to relocate closer to our riders, which improves our operational efficiency and allows us to put more buses on the road to accommodate future service requirements on the Westside," Catoe said.

MTA spends approximately \$5 million per year on wasted drive time, which represents the distance in miles a transit bus must travel before entering into regular revenue service.

The West Los Angeles area is now served by buses from three different locations: Venice, West Hollywood and Los Angeles, all of them already at or near capacity. The Venice bus division now accommodates only 77 buses and cannot handle CNG fueling.

CNG fueling station

The new facility, when complete, will handle nearly double that number -- 150 buses. All of them will operate on clean-burning CNG that will be fueled on-site.

"It's been more than 20 years since MTA has built a new facility of this type," Catoe said. "Since that time, there have been major technological advancements that we can utilize to improve our bus operations and create an attractive facility that enhances the community. MTA must continually seek to improve its facilities throughout Los Angeles County if we are to keep pace with technology and public transit demand."

In the next phase of the project, the developer will conduct a full environmental review of the project at the new site, including traffic and noise impacts, and will meet all mitigation requirements prior to beginning construction.

MTA, meanwhile, will conduct extensive community outreach to gather public input on design and other issues. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2006.

In other board actions:

UPDATE: September 25, 2003

- **Item 26, Division 6 Land Exchange.** A motion concerning construction of a new bus operating division in West Los Angeles, was approved by the full Board, as amended. The amendment directs MTA and the developer to work with the community and to mitigate the impact of traffic and noise in the neighborhood caused by buses and employees' cars. (See full story: Board Approves Land Exchange for New Bus Division in West LA)
- **Item 24, Updated Transit Service Policy,** Approved, by the full Board, as amended. The amendment holds for further consideration by the Board a section of the policy concerning restructuring Metro service to a hub and spoke system.
- **Item 23. Vandalism of MTA Property.** Received and filed by Operations Committee.
- **Item 25. New Rail Traction Substations.** Postponed for further action by the Board.
- **Item 10. Campo de Cahuenga Preservation.** Approved by the full Board.
- **Item 6. Easy Transit Pass Program.** Approved by the full Board.

[Back to MTA Report](#)