

Revised Motion by Board Members: Knabe, Najarian, O'Connor, Fasana, DuBois, and Antonovich

Agenda Item No. 13

February 26, 2009

In an effort to help mitigate the increase in MTA's fares the MTA Board established a county-wide Rider Relief Transportation Program in November, 2007 in the amount of \$5 million dollars to provide a direct subsidy to low-income persons. Until now, the Rider Relief Program has been restricted to MTA passengers only.

MTA has established an excellent qualification and distribution procedure for the program. Riders go to specified social service agencies to obtain certification for the program. That agency then gives the qualified rider a coupon which they take to MTA to get a fare reduction when they buy their pass. This process should remain in place with the only modification being the inclusion of riders from the additional identified transit operators.

In circumstances similar to those experienced by MTA, some of the "eligible and Included" operators in the county have recently found it necessary to raise their fares or are in the process of doing so due to the loss of state funding and sales tax revenues. The same problems low-income riders face at MTA are manifested with these other transit operators, as well.

Given that MTA established the \$5 million dollars to assist low-income riders facing fare increases, we believe that MTA should now expand inclusion in this program to the low-income riders of the eligible and included operators who have or are implementing fare increases. Furthermore, no additional revenues are needed since the limited expansion of the program can be accommodated within the funding originally approved by the MTA Board in 2007.

We, Therefore, Move, that the MTA Board, recognizing the needs of all low income transit users in the county, extend the existing Rider Relief Transportation Program to qualified low-income passengers of the eligible and included operators in Los Angeles County.

We Further Move that as full implementation of the Metro TAP Card program is achieved with and among the eligible and included operators, the Rider Relief Program would also accommodate the TAP Program.