



MTA LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

DATE: April 29, 1998

TO: JULIAN BURKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: SHARON L. LANDERS *SL*
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FEDERAL

The House-Senate Conference Committee began its discussions on the ISTEA reauthorization bill, April 22. At the first meeting of the Conference Committee, Congressman Bud Schuster (R-PA) was elected Chair and Senator John H. Chafee (R-RI) was designated Vice Chair. It appears that the Conference Committee will not meet its Friday, May 1 deadline to complete the reauthorization bill. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS), remains optimistic that the bill will be on the President's desk by the Memorial Day recess.

LOCAL

San Fernando Valley Transportation Zone - On Monday, April 27th, the Transportation Committee of the Los Angeles City Council held a special meeting to hear findings on studies to create a new transportation zone in the San Fernando Valley.

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation's (LADOT) feasibility study found that the transportation zone proposal has merit and the annual cost savings for providing service would be significant. The study concludes that cost savings of 32% (the MTA guideline goal is 25%) would be attained by contracting out parts of the service.

Transportation Committee Chairman Richard Alarcon and Councilmember Joel Wachs (Svornich was absent) voted to adopt and send the L.A. City Council for approval. These recommendations are as follows:

- Endorse the establishment of a transportation zone in the San Fernando Valley and initiate that process by stating an "intent to file" application letter to the MTA;
- Direct the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to invite interested jurisdictions to participate in establishing a Joint Powers Agreement to implement and operate a San Fernando

Valley Transportation Zone; and seek reasonable cost sharing from those jurisdictions for expenses incurred in developing the application;

- Direct the CLA and City Attorney to develop a joint powers agreement to establish and govern a San Fernando Valley Transportation Zone to be reviewed by the Mayor, L.A. City Council and participating jurisdictions; and
- Direct the General Manager of LADOT, the City Administrative Officer, and City Attorney to undertake preparation of an application for a transportation zone pursuant to existing MTA guidelines.

According to LADOT officials, the time frame for the preparation of an application will be at least a six-month period.

U.S. 101 - I-405 Freeway Interchange - The Transportation Committee also voted to receive and file progress reports from LADOT and the Department of Airports (DOA) regarding motions to improve traffic congestion at the U.S. 101 - I-405 freeway interchange.

Construction will begin in January 1999 to resolve merging problems at the interchange on the HOV extension to Sunset Blvd. The improvement to widen/restripe the west bound U.S. 101 between Sepulveda Blvd. and Hayvenhurst Ave. is currently under construction. In addition, Caltrans has initiated Project Study Reports (PSRs) on two northbound improvements.

LADOT and DOA are still in the process of studying what effect the expansion of Los Angeles International Airport will have on traffic moving through the interchange. Findings from this study will be reported when the Airport Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is complete.

An intergovernmental panel consisting of LADOT, MTA and other state and local agencies has continued to meet to review various options to fund the improvements. These options include:

- The MTA "Call for Projects;"
- City of Los Angeles share of Local Return monies through SB 45, and;
- Caltrans funding sources.

Officials from LADOT and DOA will continue to provide reports on the progress of these improvements through the study and implementation phases.