



We're in the process of evaluating comments from the approximately 175 people who testified at the public hearing on fares two weekends ago. Soon, we will begin preparing a budget package that includes a recommended fare structure and service levels. It is anticipated the Board will discuss and carefully consider the budget at special workshops in early June. Hopefully, it will be adopted at the Jurie Board meeting.

I must give special thanks to deputy director of multi-modal local government affairs Lupe Valdez and her staff who conducted 17 presentations across the Southland to explain our economic plight and our consideration of fare and service changes. I also thank Alice Wiggins and her marketing staff for developing all the literature for the public. They got the message out.

Budget Review Group Begins Meeting

Speaking of the shortfall, six budget evaluation teams, comprised of budget office analysts Lorenzo Tyner, Richard Underwood, Larry Conn, Norm Crofford, Dave Beaubien, and Frank Shapiro, and representatives of each executive officer — Matt Barrett, Shaker Sawires, Dave Hewitt, Tom Rubin, Wayne Moore, and Annette Colfax — have started meeting with the Budget Review Group. This group includes deputy chief executive officer Kim Kimball, special assistant Jay Ehrgott, budget director Larry Schlegel, chief financial officer Terry Matsumoto, and acting chief administrative officer Alan Pegg.

These meetings continue this week. Later in the week, I will begin my meetings with them to see what they've come up with.

Layoff Policy Approved

Our proposed layoff policy was approved at last week's Board meeting. The Executive Officers have been drawing up plans to identify which positions are to be reduced. These plans will be finalized soon.

Benefits Package on Hold

You should know, too, that the ancillary benefits package that was to go before the Board last Wednesday was pulled from the agenda — because some Board members were concerned with, and needed further clarification of, the Time Off With Pay program (TOWP).

Security Contract Awarded to Transit Police

You probably know by now that the Board placed with the MTA Transit Police the responsibility to provide all bus and rail security. My congratulations to Police Chief Sharon Papa! Starting July 1, a transition period will begin on the Blue Line as the Transit Police assumes responsibility from the Sheriff's Department.

CEO Advisory Group to Create Action Plan

Our newly created CEO Advisory Group met on Friday. This was a special session that did not include me, but featured a talk by David Jones,

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an expert in organizational development and human relations, who has been called upon by more than 400 private and public sector companies and agencies around the world to better achieve their goals.

David, a former psychology professor at Boston and Tufts universities, has already staged several workshops involving managers from Planning/Programming, External Relations, Operations, and the RCC.

David worked with CEO Advisory Group members to clarify direction, establish ground rules, and to prioritize organizational issues. The group identified four major areas of concern:

- Merger
- Downsizing/layoffs
- Morale
- External relations/image

They created four task forces that will explore each issue and develop an action plan. Phyllis tells me that they will present that plan to me for my thoughts within the month.

I'll keep you posted.

Transportation Academies Draw Praise

In other matters, we are delighted that our call for employee volunteers for the soon-to-be-launched transportation academies was overwhelming.

More than 300 of you, in professions all across the board – bus operators, mechanics, planners, engineers, and clerks – said you were willing to help shape the program, which extends beyond the walls of the classroom. Last Thursday, more than 100 of you met with the program's leader, Naomi Nightingale, to join a committee.

On June 20-21, the teachers involved will be here for a two-day workshop. In July, they, joined by those of you on that committee, will begin writing the curriculum.

The MTA and the Los Angeles Unified School District have selected Wilson, Locke, and North Hollywood high schools as sites for academies

that will offer training in transportation trades and professions to some 600 students each year. The academy at Wilson will open this September; next February is the starting date for the other two.

Naomi tells me that she can still take more volunteers, particularly to be mentors for the students. Give her a call at extension 4-6410.

Art Program Changes Hands

I'd like to extend my best wishes to Jessica Cusick, who leaves us as the talented manager of the Art-For-Rail-Transit project. Jessica, who coordinated the agency's award-winning art program, has been named head of the public arts program for the city of Houston. Her assistant, Maya Emsden, will assume her position in an acting capacity. Maya can be reached at extension 4-6829.

Hollywood Stars

I'm pleased at the fine work the RCC did last week as it began the careful process of removing the Walk of Fame stars along Hollywood Boulevard. Under Ed McSpedon, the agency worked closely with numerous organizations to ensure that the stars will be properly removed and stored during construction of Segment 2 of the Red Line. All 444 stars are slated to be returned in 1997.

My hat's off to our supervising engineer Maureen Tamuri who worked closely with the effort and was even featured on an Entertainment Tonight segment explaining the procedure to actor Milton Berle!

Finally, thanks to Alice Wiggins and Audrey Noda who, on very short notice, pulled together the "Take Our Daughters to Work" program. Hopefully, next year, we can include even more employees.

- Franklin White

I welcome your comments and questions in response to CEO Report, which is designed to provide employees with direct communication with my office. Please contact either of my Special Assistants, Michael Gonzalez at 244-7476, or Phyllis Tucker at 244-6191. Also, employees can fax comments to 244-6014.

A publication of the MTA CEO's Office

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