

Yaroslavsky Motion Seeks Study of Extending Rail Service to Staples Center, Other Venues

(November 17) The issue of extending Metro Rail hours to serve the Staples Center and other entertainment venues will come before the Board's Planning and Programming Committee on Thursday.

LA County Supervisor and MTA Director Zev Yaroslavsky has filed a motion that would direct agency staff to report back to the Board in 30 days with a financing and operational plan to provide the service.

The motion also would direct the staff to provide the Board within 60 days a cost and operational plan for extending rail hours and service when the Metro Red Line opens to North Hollywood in mid-2000.

The motion notes that the staff should work with the Staples Center, Music Center, Universal Studios, the Universal Amphitheater, Hollywood Bowl, Trizec-Hahn, which is building an entertainment complex at the Hollywood/Highland station, and other interested parties.

Based on earlier discussions concerning Staples Center, the staff already has begun a study of how best to provide late service to bus and rail patrons attending late-ending events.

Currently, the Metro Blue Line serves Pico station near the Staples Center every 20 minutes throughout the day. The last northbound Metro Blue Line train leaves Pico station at 10:54 p.m., while the last southbound train departs at 11:27 p.m. The northbound train reaches 7th and Metro Center in time to connect with the last east- and westbound trains.

For several weeks following the opening of Staples Center, the MTA provided standby buses for events that ended late. Recently, most sporting events at Staples Center have ended in time for patrons to catch a Metro Blue Line train, MTA schedulers said.

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