

Items to Watch

Board Committees Take Action on Free New Year's Eve Rides, Other Items

(November 22) MTA Board committees meeting last week took action on several motions - including one to offer free New Year's Eve rides on Metro Buses and Metro Rail. These and other items will come before the full Board at its next meeting, Dec. 2.

Board items to watch in December include:

Free Rides. The Executive Management committee approved a motion by Mayor Richard Riordan to offer free rides New Year's Eve on Metro Buses and Metro Rail. The free service would begin at 11 a.m., Friday, Dec. 31, and continue until 5 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 1.

Extend Rail Service. The Planning and Programming Committee approved and sent forward for full Board action a motion by Director Zev Yaroslavsky. The motion directs the MTA to provide in 30 days a financing and operational plan to immediately extend rail hours to serve the Staples Center and Music Center.

The motion also directs the staff to provide within 60 days a cost and operational plan to extend rail service when the Metro Red Line opens to North Hollywood in mid-2000.

Radio System. The Operations Committee approved a motion authorizing the CEO to contract for consulting and technical support of the Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS). The ATMS will replace the existing Transit Radio system (TRS), which is obsolete and does not meet the MTA's operational needs.

ATMS is expected to improve communications between Metro Buses and the Bus Operations Control Center, provide real time information on bus location, improve safety, quality and fleet management. It also will be capable of integrating with the Universal Fare and be compatible with existing operational systems.

Bicycle Racks. The Operations Committee also approved a motion to purchase 550 fold-up bicycle racks to be mounted on Metro Buses. The single-source, \$291,407 contract will require a two-thirds vote of the full Board.

Bike racks already are mounted on 1,400 of the MTA's 2,200 buses. If approved, the additional 550 racks will be installed beginning in January – a possible seven-month project. The agency is aiming at equipping 100 percent of the fleet with bike racks. All new buses delivered from the factory will come equipped with bike racks.

[Back to MTA Report](#)