

Items to Watch

Pickup Trucks to Staples Center Service, Board Will Have its Hands Full in January

(Jan. 13) MTA Board committees this month will discuss items that range from the purchase of new pickup trucks and buses to photo enforcement cameras to adding bus and rail service for Staples Center patrons.

Committee meetings are scheduled Wednesday, Jan. 19, and Thursday, Jan. 20. The full Board is scheduled to meet at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 27.

Board items to watch during January include:

Operations Committee, Jan. 19

metro.net Nov. 2
MTA Testing High-Tech Fareboxes That Collect Data as well as Fares

Electronic Transfer Machines, Item 8: The Committee will consider a recommendation to award a \$4.5 million contract for 2,240 electronic transfer machines (ETM) to be installed on Metro Buses. ETMs, which print out transfers as requested by patrons, are intended to replace the use of pre-printed paper transfers.

More than 650,000 paper transfers currently are issued to bus operators as they start their shifts each day. Outdated paper transfers are discarded. A study indicates the ETMs can improve internal controls by reducing the opportunity for transfer theft and abuse. They also will serve as an interim measure until the MTA can adopt a Universal Fare System.

215 Low-Floor Buses, Item 9: The motion would authorize the CEO to exercise a \$75.5 million contract option with North American Bus Industries to purchase an additional 215 low-floor CNG buses, spare parts and equipment.

The coaches would seat 40 and would feature a simple, folding ramp for mobility-impaired passengers. Based on the manufacturer's preliminary schedule, the MTA could begin receiving the buses in February, 2001, at a rate of 40 buses per month.

metro.net Jan. 5
MTA Expects to Buy 188 Vehicles for Agency's Non-Revenue Fleet

Non-Revenue Vehicles, Items 12 and 13: Together, these two items recommend the purchase of 185 non-revenue vehicles, including 50 sedans, 21 full-size cargo vans and 18 mini-pickup trucks for use as operator relief vehicles. The MTA plans to purchase a total of 188 non-revenue vehicles this year.

Photo Enforcement Cameras, Item 18: The motion recommends the purchase of six more cameras for use in the Metro Blue Line photo enforcement program. According to a consultant's report, cameras installed at rail crossings have reduced the number of vehicle violations. The new cameras will be placed at intersections

along Washington Boulevard to deter left-turn violators.

Because there is only a single source of procurement for the cameras, the Board must pass the motion on a two-thirds vote.

Executive Management Committee, Jan. 20

metro.net Jan. 13
LA City Council Votes to Join Valley Transit Zone Authority

Valley Transit Zone Study, Item 44: Mayor Richard Riordan's motion would direct the CEO to transfer \$140,000 from the Board's contingency account to the Greater San Fernando Valley Transportation Zone interim Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

The funds would pay a consultant to perform a "bottoms up" analysis of MTA divestiture data. The motion also would direct the MTA to work cooperatively with the JPA and the consultant to refine transit operations subsidy numbers.

Ethics Officer, Item 45: The committee is scheduled to discuss the appointment of a permanent head of the Board's Ethics and Lobby Registration office. The position, which has been vacant since the death of Ryan Nakagawa last year, has been filled on an interim basis by William Lowe.

Planning and Programming Committee, Jan. 20

Staples Center, Music Center Service, Item 49: The committee will consider an MTA staff proposal to extend the hours of Metro Rail and Metro Bus service to serve the Staples Center and the Music Center.

The proposal calls for adding one late evening trip on all branches of the Metro Rail system, with the exception of the westbound Metro Red Line. It also would add bus trips on Lines 30 and 81, which operate directly adjacent to the Staples Center. The proposed service change is estimated to cost approximately \$160,000 from April through June.

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