

Board Workshop Set on Transit Alternatives for Eastside, Mid-City/Westside, SF Valley

By MARC LITTMAN

(Feb. 2) The Board will hold a workshop at 1 p.m., Friday, Feb. 4, to review technical data generated by a team of consultants that has been analyzing various options for improving public transportation in the Eastside, Mid-City/Westside, and San Fernando Valley.

MTA directors will not take action at the workshop. They may act at the Feb. 24 regular Board meeting to advance some of the options for environmental analysis. Those would require further public review and comment.

Developing less costly alternatives

Two years ago, the Board suspended new subway construction in the Eastside, Mid-City and San Fernando Valley. Since that time, MTA staff and consultants have been working with community organizations in those transit corridors to develop less costly fixed guideway alternative projects.

These range from rapid buses traveling on exclusive lanes on city streets or on exclusive busways on existing owned railroad rights-of-way to light-rail projects and, in one corridor, a short underground rail segment.

At Friday's workshop, MTA directors will review 21 different alternatives and consider projected costs, ridership and other technical data before culling those options that will go forward to the environmental review phase.

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