

Proposed FY 2001 Federal Budget Would Earmark \$100 Million for MTA

(Feb. 8) The federal budget proposed for FY 2001 by President Clinton includes \$100 million for the MTA within a record \$54.9 billion earmarked for transportation.

The budget would provide to the MTA \$50 million in "extraordinary costs associated with the Master's decision" in connection with the Consent Decree. It also would allocate \$50 million for completion of the North Hollywood segment of the Metro Red Line.

MTA appreciates support

"The MTA appreciates the Administration's continued support for Los Angeles County's transportation programs," said CEO Julian Burke.

"The MTA is currently formulating its FY 2001 federal appropriations requests, which will be submitted to Congress within a month."

The Administration's transportation budget proposal is \$4.7 billion - 9 percent - higher than the current year's \$50.2 billion budget. It would fund key programs in the areas of safety, mobility, economic growth and trade, environmental protection and national security.

Months-long process

The President's proposal is the first step in a months-long federal appropriations process involving both houses of Congress that will culminate with a finalized budget Oct. 1.

Funding categories in the FY 2001 proposed budget include:

- \$117 million, 6 percent more than this year, to prevent train collisions, reduce highway-grade crossing accidents and improve railroad safety;

- A record \$6.3 billion for mass transit, including 12 new or expanded rail systems in Portland, Ore.; Chicago; Seattle; Pittsburgh; Memphis; Minneapolis; Denver; Baltimore; Washington, D.C.; northeastern New Jersey; and Salt Lake City;

- A record \$1.28 billion, 37 percent more than this year, for transportation research and for the development and deployment of new technologies. This includes \$338 million, 83 percent more than this year, for smart traffic signals, regional travel information networks and other intelligent transportation systems;

- A record \$3.8 billion, 5 percent more than this year, for programs to protect the environment and to support community-based initiatives to combat congestion and pollution, including \$1.6 billion for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, to fund transit, ridesharing and other projects that help communities clean their air.

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