

UPDATE: MARCH BOARD ACTIONS

Bus Rapid Transit, Clean-Air Regs Among Items on Board Agenda for March

Editor's Note: This story was updated at 9:15 a.m., Friday, March 24.

(March 24) A proposal to include the Crenshaw Transit Corridor as a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) demonstration project was approved by the Board at its March meeting. The Board also discussed clean-air regulations, a request for federal dollars and sale or lease of property adjacent to the Metro Red Line North Hollywood station.

metro.net Reports
March 24 update: "Board Items"
Bus/Rail Interface Plan
Free Rides

Items to watch in March include:

Item 9 APPROVED by the Board. The motion includes a provision for free rides on the Metro Red Line and on Metro Rapid Buses operating in the Wilshire and Ventura boulevard corridors in connection with the opening of the North Hollywood extension in June.

Forwarded without recommendation by the Planning and Programming Committee, the item calls for the Board to adopt for FY 2000 a number of Metro Bus service changes. Approval would allow the MTA to implement a bus-rail interface plan with the opening, June 24, of the North Hollywood extension. The plan also is aimed at reducing duplication of bus and rail service.

Item 13 APPROVED by the Board with an amendment that the action is "contingent on the eligibility of all three corridors for those funds." Board Chair Yvonne Brathwaite Burke's motion asks the Board to support a request to the Federal Transit Administration for approval and funding of the Crenshaw Transit Corridor as a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) demonstration project. The corridor would provide north-south access to the Wilshire Corridor BRT, the Metro Red Line, the Metro Green Line and LAX.

Item 49 APPROVED by the Board. Under this item, the Board would adopt an advertising policy for Metro Buses and Metro Rail train cars. Among other provisions, the draft policy would prohibit vinyl window graphics that would cover more than 30 percent of a bus's total window surface. It also would prohibit covering any portion of a rail car's windows with vinyl graphics. The Executive Management Committee approved the item, 5-0, with an amendment by Mayor Richard Riordan that would prohibit "any exterior advertising on...rail vehicles, BRT vehicles, rapid bus vehicles, and other new types of transit service."

See metro.net report March 15: "GRAMMY SPONSOR EXPRESSES INTEREST IN BUILDING HALL..."
--

Item 63 APPROVED by the Board with an amendment that directs the CEO to enter into a NON-exclusive right to negotiate for four, instead of six, months with the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences. Approval of this item would direct the CEO to negotiate with the "Grammy" awards sponsors, the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, for the purchase or lease of MTA-owned land adjacent to the North Hollywood subway station. The academy wants to construct "Encore Hall," a six-story development that would include retail, housing and offices.

The item was forwarded to the Board without recommendation by the Construction Committee.

Item 65 APPROVED by the Board with an amendment that directs the CEO to enter into a NON-exclusive right to negotiate for two, instead of six, months with the Children's Museum. Supervisor Zev

Yaroslavsky's motion would direct the CEO to negotiate with the Children's Museum for a long-term lease of MTA property at the North Hollywood Metro Red Line station. The CEO would be required to report back to the board on the status of negotiations by May 31.

Item 67 APPROVED by the Board. With approval of this item, the MTA would request through the Congressional delegation a total of \$132.15 million in federal funds. The funds would be allocated to such projects as the North Hollywood extension, bus and bus-related facilities, and the Eastside, Mid-City and San Fernando Valley transit corridors. The CEO also would be directed to seek additional state and local funding to ensure that the Eastside, Mid-City and San Fernando Valley projects are funded at the same percentage of estimated project costs.

[Back to article](#)