

Board Action Update

Universal Fare System, Metro Rapid, Rail Car Lease Among Items Approved by MTA Board in April

Editor's Note: (April 24) Board actions noted in red.

(April 24) A motion to conduct a competitive negotiation for procurement of highly specialized electronic equipment that would be used in a universal fare system, and a motion to launch a special leasing program for 74 Breda cars that would generate \$15 million in revenue for the MTA were among items approved by the Board at its April meeting.

Items to watch in April include:

■ OPERATIONS COMMITTEE **Wednesday, April 19, 1 p.m.**

Item 9 - Bus Procurement. A status report on bus procurements says 40 New Flyer CNG buses were placed into revenue service during March. The remaining 22 coaches in the 223-bus order are to be delivered to the MTA in April. New Flyer also delivered the "pilot bus" of an order of 223 low-floor CNG buses in March. That bus will be on display on Patsaouras Plaza during the Board meeting.

NABI has delivered some 30 low-floor CNG buses of a 430-bus order. The first 100 buses will be used, beginning in May, for training operators assigned to the Metro Rapid bus program.

Item 10 - Transitional Duty Program. A Risk Management Department report says the Transitional Duty Program is returning injured personnel to work 46 percent faster than their doctors anticipated. A conservative estimate indicates the program has saved the MTA \$1.3 million. As of Feb. 29, 504 employees had participated in the program, with 257 having returned to work.

Item 11 - Bus Service Contracts. POSTPONED to May 8. This motion would authorize the CEO to award five-year bus service contracts, with three one-year extension options, to five transit companies. The contract amount, including options, would total \$227.7 million.

Item 13 - Universal Fare System. APPROVED. The motion would authorize the MTA staff to conduct a competitive negotiation for procurement of the highly specialized electronic equipment that would be used in a universal fare system. The equipment would include bus fareboxes and card processors, ticket vending machines and card validators for rail stations and a computer network that, among other things, would interface with a regional fare clearinghouse. This motion required a two-thirds Board vote.

■ FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE **Thursday, April 20, 9:30 a.m.**

Receive and File Reports: Status reports are scheduled on **Item 22**, Workers Compensation results for the third quarter of FY 2000; and **Item 23**, the Transportation Foundation's Real Time Internship Program.

Item 25 - Rail Car Lease. APPROVED. The motion - a followup to

Board action in March - would authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute contracts with CIBC World Markets for procurement of 74 Breda rail cars for the Metro Red Line through a financing program called "defeased leasing." Outside investors would lease the rail equipment, valued at about \$146 million, from the MTA as a means of gaining a tax benefit by depreciating the lease over the life of the contract.

The lease is anticipated to generate about \$15 million for the MTA after payment of approximately \$1.1 million in expenses. In 1997, the MTA executed a defeased lease of 30 Metro Red Line cars with the Bank of New York as the equity investor.

■ **PLANNING &
PROGRAMMING**
Thursday, April 20, 1 p.m.

Receive and File Reports: Status reports are scheduled on **Item 27**, the Long-Range Transportation Plan; **Item 28**, status of negotiations with the Children's Museum for a lease on MTA property at the North Hollywood station; and on **Item 29**, status of negotiations concerning the Hollywood/Western station.

Item 30 - Exposition Right-of-Way. APPROVED. If approved, the Board would direct the staff to defer construction by the City of Los Angeles of the Exposition Right-of-Way Regional Bikeway Project between Vermont Avenue and the eastern boundary of Culver City until plans for a possible Bus Rapid Transit or Light-Rail Transit project are resolved. The staff also would be directed to incorporate a bikeway into the project's design.

Item 37 - Metro Rapid Stations. APPROVED. The motion would authorize the CEO to execute a \$4 million agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Public Works for installation of 89 Metro Rapid bus stations along the Whittier/Wilshire and Ventura Boulevard demonstration corridors.

The motion also would authorize the CEO to execute a \$500,000 agreement with LADOT to complete construction of the Metro Rapid bus signal priority system. A third part of the motion concerns agreements with the cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Beverly Hills and with the County of Los Angeles to complete the Metro Rapid bus demonstration program.

■ **EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT**
Monday, April 24, 1 p.m.

Receive and File Reports: Status reports are scheduled on **Item 39**, the Pasadena Blue Line Joint Powers Authority and on **Item 40**, the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

■ **Construction Committee**
Wednesday, April 19, 3 p.m.

[Back to MTA Report](#)