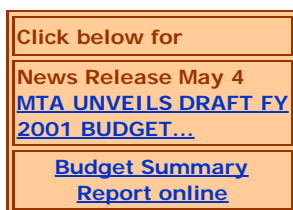


Proposed FY 2001 Draft Budget Increases Services, Salaries and the MTA Workforce

(May 4) In the plus column of the proposed FY2001 Draft Budget, operating efficiencies and a higher return on sales tax add up to increased bus and rail services to the public. The balanced budget also rewards employees with a pay increase and anticipates an expanded workforce.

Along with increased services and more projects at the starting gate comes a proposal for an across-the-board cost-of-living pay increase and 429 new hires that would increase the MTA workforce to 8,857 full-time employees. Transit Operations sees the largest increase in employees, with a potential 359 new hires. Procurement is next in line with 25 new hires, followed by Planning with 18.



MTA will deliver more bus and rail service, fund highway and other regional transportation programs and move forward with new bus and rail projects in the fiscal year that starts July 1, 2000, and still manage to balance the budget while spending about the same as the current year's adopted budget. That's the upshot of the draft FY 2001 MTA budget unveiled today by MTA CEO Julian Burke.

The proposed FY 2001 budget is \$2.552 billion which is less than 1 percent greater than the \$2.536 billion FY 2000 adopted budget.

Next Steps

The MTA Board of Directors will conduct a workshop on the draft spending plan Monday, May 8, and hold a public hearing Thursday, May 18. Both meetings begin at 9 a.m. in the third floor Board room at MTA headquarters at Gateway Plaza next to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. The public is welcome to attend.

The MTA Board will consider adopting the budget at its May 25 regular meeting which starts at 9:30 a.m. at MTA headquarters.

"This proposed budget marks another turning point for the MTA," said CEO Burke. "For the past three years we have focused on putting our house in order. Having substantially accomplished that we can now concentrate on delivering and expanding programs and services that will improve mobility for our public transit customers and everyone else in Los Angeles County who depend on MTA for regional mobility."

It's Getting Better on the Bus

Buses will remain the highest budget priority in FY 2001. Burke has proposed that MTA spend 46 percent of its budget (\$1.161 billion) on MTA bus operating and capital and municipal bus operator subsidies compared to 44 percent (\$1.119 billion) in the current fiscal year.

"Sound business practices to boost productivity and contain costs have reduced Metro Bus hourly operating costs from \$106 in the current adopted budget to \$99 in FY2001," said Chief Financial Officer Dick Brumbaugh. "The operations managers concentrate not only on delivering quality service, but on financial performance that is reviewed quarterly."

Copies of the MTA draft FY 2001 budget can be reviewed during weekday business hours in the MTA library on the 15th floor at MTA headquarters or click [here](#) to read the budget summary report on

www.mta.net.

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