Senate Subcommittee to Consider Funding for MTA Transit Projects

(June 2) A Senate subcommittee will meet in Washington early this month to begin deliberations on funding for federal transportation projects in FY 2001 – including funds for the MTA.

The MTA is seeking \$136.1 million to fund a variety of projects that include the North Hollywood subway extension, bus purchases and transportation studies for the Eastside and Mid-City transit corridors.

Funds for subway, buses

Last month, the House voted to earmark almost \$64 million for MTA funding. That includes \$50 million to complete the Metro Red Line, \$9 million for new buses and \$4 million for the transit corridor studies. Another \$3.5 million could be provided for the "welfare to work" transportation program.

The Appropriations Subcommittee of the Senate's Transportation Committee is considering its own, separate version of the federal transportation bill. Full committee action is expected within days of the subcommittee's recommendation, with the bill going to the Senate floor shortly afterward.

The House and Senate versions of the transportation bill are expected to be referred to a joint conference committee in June. Congress plans to recess for the July 4th holiday and also for the national political conventions later in the summer and action on the transportation bill is being given priority by both houses.

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