

Board Votes to Expand Harbor Transitway Service; Approves 100 Buses, Crews for Demo Convention

(July 27) The MTA Board voted, Thursday, to expand Metro Bus service on the Harbor Transitway, beginning Oct. 1, and approved a staff recommendation to provide 100 buses with operators and maintenance crews for the Democratic National Convention in August.

The Harbor Transitway vote changes what now is rush period-only service to all-day express service between San Pedro and downtown LA. The motion also established a \$1.35 one-way fare for three months. The current fare for the full length of the Transitway is \$3.35.

Fare reductions would apply to lines 442, 444, 445, 446, 447 and Line 550. The MTA serves about 2,500 daily Transitway riders.

The upgraded service is expected to start in conjunction with the opening of Transitway stations at Carson Street and Pacific Coast Highway, the southernmost of eight bus stations on the freeway. The Board requested a status report every 30 days following the start of the new service.

Buses for the convention

In addition to approving a charter of 100 buses for the Democratic National Convention (DNC), Aug. 14-17, the Board action also means that 138 Metro Bus operators and mechanics will be detailed to provide transportation for delegates.

Operators from every almost every MTA operating division are being trained along with personnel from the Los Angeles, Long Beach, Montebello, Foothill and Culver City transit agencies. The MTA will provide the largest number of operators and 100 of the more than 250 buses needed for the DNC.

On other items of interest, the Board took these actions:

Schedule Public Hearing, Item 31: APPROVED on consent. The motion calls for scheduling a hearing for Saturday, Sept. 9, to receive public comment on Harbor Transitway service modifications, refinements to the service on the Wilshire/Whittier and Venture Boulevard corridors, and other proposed service changes.

2000 TIP Call for Projects Recertification, Item 32: APPROVED. The motion calls for recertifying \$239.8 million in FY 2000-01 commitments from previous TIP Call for Projects. It would amend the FY 2000-01 budget to permit reallocation of \$3.4 million; deobligate \$44.4 million in previously approved funding; and adopt a new lapsing policy for TIP Call for Projects.

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