

Updated Aug. 24 Board Items to Watch: Board Gives Go-Ahead to Public Toilet Plan; Assures Cities Concerned about Ad Structures

(Aug. 24) After lengthy discussion and public comment, the MTA Board gave the go-ahead, Thursday, to a plan to place up to 10 Automated Public Toilets at Metro System locations. The toilets will be provided by a firm that also will place as many as 54 advertising structures on MTA properties.

An amendment to the motion acknowledges concerns raised by some cities about potential ad structure locations. It prevents the MTA from pre-empting local land use rules in placing the structures.

In other action, the Board approved contracts for employee medical, dental, vision, life and other insurance coverage. It also extended the Sodexho cafeteria contract for five years.

MTA Citizen's Advisory Committee Recommendation, Item 6: **APPROVED by the Board with committee amendment concerning testing of MTA CNG buses.** The Advisory Committee encourages the Board to ask the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to include CNG vehicles in its current diesel vehicle testing program. The Advisory Committee wants the Board to provide test buses, staff and other resources for the CARB tests.

Automated Public Toilets, Item 7: APPROVED by the Board with amenment precluding MTA from pre-empting local land use rules. In November, 1999, the MTA contracted with STI Outdoor to provide up to 10 Automated Public Toilets (APT) for use at Metro Rail stations. In return, the company would be allowed to place 54 outdoor advertising structures on MTA property. In Item 7, the Board will consider approving the installation of the APTs and the advertising structures, as well as approving the mitigation studies required for their placement.

Cafeteria Contract, Item 8: APPROVED by the Board. The committee will be asked to approve a contract with Sodexho Marriott of San Ramon to provide food service for five years at MTA Headquarters and at the Regional Rebuild Center. The agency will gain an estimated \$217,500 in revenue during the cafeteria contract period.

Medical, Dental, Life and Long-Term Disability Insurance, Item 10: APPROVED by the Board. The committee will consider awarding one year contracts, with options for two additional years, to a dozen insurance carriers who provide insurance coverage for medical, dental, vision, life, long-term disability and accidental death and dismemberment benefits. The estimated annual cost to the MTA is \$12,857,000, of which \$2,158,000 will be employee contributions through payroll deductions.

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