

Board OKs FIS Upgrade; Calls for 'Quiet Zone' on Pasadena Line

(Dec. 1) The MTA Board has authorized a \$350,000 upgrade of the agency's Financial Information System that should improve user access while reducing maintenance requirements.

At its December meeting, the Board also directed the staff to work with the Pasadena Blue Line Construction Authority to develop a "quiet zone" along a stretch of track through the Mount Washington area. Supervisor Gloria Molina's motion said the goal is to ensure that grade crossings are safe while minimizing noise at the Southwest Museum station and the Avenue 45 crossing.

The FIS upgrade project will take about five months, during which the Oracle Corp. will install the 11i version of its software. The FIS system includes purchase orders, budget information and expense data, and accounts payable and receivable.

About 1,300 employees use FIS - sometimes 100 are on the system simultaneously. FIS also interfaces with the Maintenance and Material Management System, Construction Cost Management System and other data management programs.

In other business, the Board approved a \$5.5 million settlement of a personal injury lawsuit filed by a woman who was hit by a Metro Bus in August, 1999, as she crossed a street in Chinatown. Miequn Zhu, who was 14 weeks pregnant at the time of the accident, suffered a fractured pelvis and other injuries. Her child, born last February, is quadriplegic, blind and deaf.

The MTA will pay \$4.5 million of the settlement, while its insurance company will pay \$1 million. The case would have gone to trial in January.

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