

## Items to Watch

### Committee actions updated, Thursday, Jan. 18

- **Board Workshop on Long-Range Transportation Plan, Committee Meetings Scheduled in January**

(Jan. 16) The MTA Board has scheduled a workshop at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17, to discuss the county's 25-year Long-Range Transportation Plan and to consider authorizing release of the Plan for a 45-day public comment period.

Revising the Long-Range Transportation Plan is "very, very important," says CEO Julian Burke. "With up to three and a half million people coming to Los Angeles County in the next 25 years we'll need to improve mobility."

The Plan will propose a range of options that include more HOV lanes, countywide traffic signal coordination, better management of truck traffic, more ridesharing, new busways, a countywide grid of Metro Rapid buses and extending the Metro Green Line to LAX.

Here is a description of some other items of interest before the Board this month and the times and dates of committee meetings.

- **Operations Committee**  
**1 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17**

**Alternative Fuel Path for Transit Buses, Item 12 Approved. Sent forward to full Board.** Last February, the California Air Resources Board adopted a rule aimed at reducing air pollution from transit buses and encouraging the use of alternative fuels.

The rule requires that transit agencies select either an "alternative fuels path" or a "diesel fuel path" for compliance with the pollution reduction rules. The alternative fuels path requires new buses to run on alternative fuels and mandates the purchase of zero-emissions buses by 2010.

Because the MTA for some time now has had a policy of purchasing only alternative fuels buses, the clean-air rule is expected to have only minimal financial impact on the agency.

- **Executive Management Committee**  
**11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 18**

**High-Capacity Bus Procurement Process, Item 28 Staff will rework the Board report, including new information from bus manufacturers and present the item at the Jan. 25 Board meeting.** In November, 2000, the Board asked the staff to provide a plan for buying and deploying articulated buses or 45-foot coaches as a means of increasing passenger load capacity. The Board stipulated that the buses should have alternate-fuel engines and be constructed of light-weight, composite materials. Currently, no manufacture builds an approved high-capacity bus that uses alternative fuels such as CNG.

The staff is seeking Board approval for a two-phase process in which the MTA would first seek information about bus manufacturers' plans for building high-capacity, alternative-fuel coaches during the next 36 months. In the second phase, the MTA would issue a procurement request with recommendations for specific types of vehicles and the

quantities the MTA would purchase.

**Light-Rail Car Procurement, Item 32** **Approved by committee. Sent forward to Board's consent calendar.** The motion, which requires a two-thirds vote of the Board, would authorize the CEO to solicit proposals for the purchase of 61 light-rail cars needed over the next nine years for service on the Pasadena Blue Line, the Metro Blue Line and the Metro Green Line.

**Cellular Phone Service in Subway Tunnels, Item 33** **Approved by committee. Staff to report back in February.** The motion by Board Chair Yvonne Burke would direct the MTA to solicit proposals to install cell phone signal reception equipment in the Metro Red Line tunnels. A report is due in March.

"While our passengers enjoy the Red Line for its speed and convenience," Burke's motion says, "they cannot utilize their cell phones due to the lack of reception of radio signals in the tunnels." Other transit properties, she said, have permitted signal reception equipment to be installed in their subway tunnels.

- **Planning and Programming Committee**  
**1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 18**

**Proposal for Schools at Two Subway Stations, Item 41**  
**Committee recommended approval, but amended the motion to include a 90-day "sunset" clause after which the MTA could negotiate with other parties for use of the North Hollywood station property.** The Los Angeles Unified School District has expressed interest in building public high schools on MTA-owned land at the Metro Red Line's Wilshire/Vermont and North Hollywood stations.

The committee is expected to discuss an LAUSD request for a 90-day negotiating period with the agency. The talks would be expected to clarify how much of the sites would be needed for the schools, how subway portals, bus layover zones and park 'n ride lots would be placed, construction schedules and compensation for use of the MTA property.

The MTA had planned to encourage commercial development of the property around the stations as a stimulus to local communities and as a convenience to subway riders.

**Approve 2001 Call for Projects Funding Marks, Item 45**  
**Forwarded to full Board without recommendation.** Over the next six years, the MTA expects to fund some \$850 million in transportation projects, primarily highway projects, through its 2001 Call for Projects.

The committee will consider approving funding marks in eight transportation categories for presentation to the Board this month. Applications for project funding are due from local agencies in February. The process should be completed in June or July.

- **Construction Committee, 3 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17**
- **January Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 25**

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