UPDATE: Oct. 25: Changes in text below.

Mayor Hahn to Introduce Motion on Gateway Complex Security at October Board Meeting

See also: Board Names MTA Library for Dorothy Gray

(Oct. 24, 2001) Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn will introduce two motions at Thursday's Board meeting – one that would require a review of security at the Union Station Gateway complex and another calling for a special Board meeting to receive a staff report on the Consent Decree.

Hahn's request for a special meeting, Item 50, is intended to allow MTA staff time to prepare a presentation on the status of the Consent Decree, as well as possible legal action the Board might take, if any.

UPDATE, Oct. 24: Item 50 has been withdrawn. Board Chairman John Fasana is planning to schedule a meeting in November to receive the report.

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently denied the MTA's request for a rehearing on its earlier ruling that required the MTA to buy 248 new buses. The MTA already has complied with the court order to put the buses in service.

The mayor's other motion, Item 47, would direct the MTA to take the lead in coordinating a safety assessment of the Gateway complex and MTA Headquarters building. Also involved would be the LAPD, Sheriff's Department, Amtrak, SCRRA, MWD, and the complex developer, Catellus. A Board report with security recommendations would be due in 30 days.

The motion also directs the staff, working with the LAPD and LASD, to report back within 30 days on a security assessment of the Metro Bus and Metro Rail systems.

"The events of September 11 have changed the lives of all Americans," Hahn said in a news release. "Here in Los Angeles, we want to protect and secure this transportation hub, which links Southern California to the national transportation system."

Other items scheduled to come before the Board at Thursday's meeting include:

APPROVED by the full Board

Fare Agreement with Montebello Bus Lines. Item 39. The motion would authorize the CEO to enter into what promises to be a far-reaching fare agreement with Montebello Bus Lines that could provide a "strong foundation" for the proposed Universal Fare System.

The agreement, which would allow MTA pass holders to use their passes on the Montebello system, is an "initial step moving toward the development of a countywide pass," according to the Board report. It also would give the MTA an opportunity to see how such a program impacts ridership and revenue.

DEFERRED until November, with consideration for the name "Gold Line." Pasadena "Rose Line." Item 6. A motion filed in June by Supervisor Michael Antonovich to rename the Pasadena Blue Line the "Rose Line" is scheduled for discussion by the full Board.

Antonovich's motion is intended "to eliminate confusion with the existing

Long Beach Blue Line...and to better represent the community which will be served." The motion notes that the Pasadena Blue Line Construction Authority has referred the issue to the MTA, which will operate the line.

APPROVED by the full Board

Pasadena Blue Line Grade Crossings. Item 49. This motion by Supervisor Gloria Molina and Antonovich would affirm the MTA Board's support of the Pasadena Blue Line Construction Authority's applications for grade crossings. The application is before the California Public Utilities Commission.

Community groups along several segments of the Pasadena Blue Line, now under construction, have asked the CPUC to prevent construction of street-level rail crossings at certain intersections and to require the construction authority to build grade separations at those intersections.

The authority has said that any delay in construction due to the grade crossing dispute would jeopardize the completion schedule and the opening date, and would add unanticipated costs to the project.

The Molina/Antonovich motion urges the CPUC to "expedite the process to the highest extent possible and grant interim permission" to the authority to go ahead with construction of street-level crossings at the intersections.

APPROVED, with a rider naming the MTA Library the "Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library." El Pueblo Transportation Museum. Item 35. The motion would authorize the CEO to conclude an agreement with the City of Los Angeles for development of a transportation museum in a historic building at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Park.

The MTA's reimbursement to the city, which would come from federal funding for restoration of the historic building on Olvera Street, would not exceed \$1.248 million.

The museum would be developed in cooperation with the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Los Angeles Children's Museum and the El Pueblo business community. It would include displays of historic transportation systems important to the development of Southern California.

Back to MTA Report