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### **High Marks for Metro Blue Line in APTA Peer Review; Panel Makes Recommendations for Eastside Corridor**

By ED SCANNELL

(Feb. 15, 2002) A four-member panel assembled by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) to review MTA efforts to promote safety and security on the Metro Blue Line and the Eastside light-rail extension has given the agency a big thumbs up.

The MTA requested the APTA peer review as it nears final design on the six-mile extension of the Metro Gold Line that will run from Union Station to Beverly/Atlantic in East Los Angeles.

Following a detailed examination of the Metro Blue Line, the panel called MTA's performance in the areas of safety, security design, cultural sensitivity and integration with the community, "exemplary."

The panel also praised the MTA for its "high commitment to safety and education," and noted that its public outreach efforts have been excellent and "beyond other properties."

Of particular note, panelists applauded the coordination among safety and security and the other departments within the MTA. They said in their visits and reviews of public transit systems around the country, this type of interdepartmental cooperation and commitment to a mutual task is most often the exception rather than the rule.

### **Recommendations for the Eastside**

In light of the MTA's performance on the Metro Blue Line, the panel listed a series of recommendations for the agency's consideration as it prepares to enter final design of the Eastside light-rail extension. The recommendations covered topics including pedestrian management, security, alignment, traffic management, train control and traction power.

The panel also made specific recommendations for operation over the First Street Bridge, and suggested the MTA begin now its safety education of Eastside area residents and include its security department in design review.

During the four-day review, the panelists interviewed employees and

consultants, toured the Metro Blue Line, visited Rail Operations Control, toured the proposed alignment of the Eastside light rail extension and reviewed drawings.

Panelists included Bill Grizzard from Sacramento Regional Transit District, Pamela McCombe of Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Bill Thompson, manager of operations for Calgary Transit, and Al Fazio, chief of operations for New Jersey's Hudson-Bergen light rail system.

An expanded written report is expected to be completed in late March.

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