

Board Committee Recommends Service Sector Council Structure

(April 19, 2002) The MTA's service sector plan moved steps closer to reality, Wednesday, when a special Board committee made several recommendations on how the local sector councils should be structured.

The membership of the councils, the scope of their activities and how much authority the MTA should give them are major policy issues facing Board members as the agency moves toward the July 1 opening of service sectors in the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys.

At the Board's direction, CEO Roger Snoble, Deputy CEO John Catoe, Chief of Staff Maria Guerra and others have made a number of service sector presentations to get feedback from local officials and citizen organizations.

"In general, the service sector concept was well-received," Guerra reported to the Board's Ad Hoc Service Sector Committee. But, she said those who heard the presentations expressed a variety of opinions about how service sectors could best serve their transportation needs.

Nine-member councils

During a late-afternoon meeting, the committee voted to recommend that the full Board "support the establishment of governance councils."

A second vote proposed councils with up to nine members. The motion included a provision to recognize the structure of any existing "entities" that might be designated as a sector's governance council.

The committee also will recommend that elected officials and/or private citizens may serve as council members.

Council members would be paid a stipend to attend meetings, no more than two a month. The stipend amount will be determined at a later committee meeting.

Other issues, including delegation of Board authority to the councils, will be discussed at future meetings.

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