

Board OKs Motions on Station Developments, Safety Device

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(June 27, 2002) The MTA Board approved motions, today, giving CEO Roger Snoble authority to negotiate exclusively with two firms that have proposed developments at Metro Rail stations. The motions require the projects to be built as currently proposed.

Legacy Partners of Irvine wants to develop 2.8 acres at the Hollywood/Vine station. Urban Partners of Los Angeles is planning a development on approximately 7 acres at the Wilshire/Vermont station.

Legacy Partners has proposed a mixed-use, transit-oriented development with some 300 hotel rooms, 200 apartments, 46 condominiums, 30,000 square feet of retail space and 732 parking spaces on the Hollywood/Vine site.

An amendment by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky would require the MTA to withdraw from negotiations with Legacy Partners if the firm should decide not to build the hotel or condominiums.

The plan proposed by Urban Partners at Wilshire/Vermont calls for development of a three-story middle school for some 800 students on a 2.6 acre portion of the site. This motion also was approved with the provision that major elements of the project would be built or the MTA would terminate the deal.

In other actions:

Dangerzone Deflectors: The Board voted to purchase S-1 Gards – a device also called the "Dangerzone Deflector" – that can push a fallen pedestrian out from under the rear wheels of a moving bus. The devices will be installed on the MTA's fleet over the next 12 to 15 months.

>See metro.net June 13: "[Dangerzone Deflector can save lives...](#)"

Metro Gold Line Parking. The Board approved a motion to provide up to \$10 million to cover the unanticipated cost of constructing a 1,000-space parking structure at the Metro Gold Line's Sierra Madre Villa station. The staff will study a proposal to purchase a parking structure at the Del Mar station.

The action also relieves the rail line's construction authority from the requirement to reimburse the MTA for the cost of pre-revenue startup activities and other items.

25 New Positions. The Board approved a motion permitting the MTA to hire 25 employees to conduct bus schedule point checks, data collection, analysis and reporting required to maintain compliance with the federal Consent Decree.

Under the plan, 18 of the new employees would perform point checks and seven would handle administrative and data processing duties. Currently, the work is spread among existing staff in the Performance Analysis and

Service Planning units.

The Consent Decree's special master has ordered the agency to monitor load standards three times a month on 20 high-ridership bus lines and once a month on 59 other lines beginning July 1. The special master also required additional performance reporting.

Janitors at 818 Building. The Board approved a motion by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky to "communicate its concerns" to the owners of the 818 West 7th Street building about management's relations with the building's janitors. The MTA still leases offices in the building.

Yaroslavsky's motion stated that as a building tenant, "the MTA has a responsibility to ensure that workers who clean and maintain the building are paid legal wages and treated fairly." An option to extend the MTA's lease is expected to come before the Board for action in July.

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