

Board to Consider CNG Facilities, Parking Garage Lease

(July 24, 2002) The MTA Board will consider plans at its monthly meeting, Thursday, to expand CNG fueling facilities at Metro Bus divisions 3 and 8 in order to accommodate more buses at both locations.

The Board also will take up a motion to lease MTA property at Terminal 17 on Maple Avenue in downtown LA for construction of a parking garage with space for a bus layover facility.

Originally constructed in 1996, the CNG facility at West Valley Division 8 in Chatsworth has capacity to fuel only 60 buses and has no backup capacity when a compressor is taken out of service for maintenance. Given its age and design, plans are to completely replace the equipment for a total cost of \$14.2 million.

The CNG fueling station at North Los Angeles Division 3 was built in 1999, but can no longer handle the number of buses assigned to the division and also has no backup capacity. Built to a newer design, the facility will be expanded at a total cost of \$12.3 million.

Both fueling facility expansions are to be design/build projects in partnership with private firms. This approach has been used at six operating divisions – divisions 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 and 15 – and has become a model for other transit operators.

The lease agreement the Board will consider for Terminal 17 includes construction of a seven-story commercial parking building by a private real estate developer. The first floor of the structure would be reserved exclusively for bus parking.

Terminal 17, located in the 600 block of Maple Avenue, currently serves as a layover zone for four buses, but can accommodate up to 10 coaches. Facilities for use by bus operators would include restrooms and a lounge.

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