

Senate Earmarks \$57.5 Million for MTA in FY 2003

(Aug. 1, 2002) The MTA's federal funding requests are making their way through Congress, with the Senate Appropriations Committee earmarking \$57.5 million for the agency in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

Although House committees have not yet met to consider MTA funding requests, the Senate funding marks include:

- \$40 million to complete federal funding of the Metro Rail North Hollywood extension;
- \$10 million for the Eastside Light-Rail Project;
- \$5 million for expansion of the Rapid Bus program and to improve bus facilities;
- \$1.75 million to purchase new buses and improve facilities for municipal operators; and \$750,000 for the Reverse Commute/Jobs Access Program.

The MTA has requested a total of \$113.5 million that, in addition to the above, would include spending for preliminary engineering on the proposed Exposition Boulevard light-rail project, money for more Metro Rapid buses and implementation of the Universal Fare System.

The agency's funding requests will be considered by House Appropriations committees in September, after which members of the Senate and House committees will negotiate the final funding figures for FY 2003.

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