MTA Eying 5 North-South Rapid Transit Corridors in Valley

By ED SCANNELL

(Dec. 6, 2002) Following a series of community meetings and analysis, an MTA project team has narrowed the list of alternatives for a north-south high-capacity bus transit corridor in the San Fernando Valley from 13 to five.

When analysis is completed in early 2003, MTA will recommend one or more corridors to connect the north San Fernando Valley with the East-West Metro Rapid Transitway and with Metro Rapid service on Ventura Boulevard.

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Opens Bids for Valley's Metro
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The five potential north-south corridors that remain under study include the rail right-of-way adjacent to Canoga Avenue, Lankershim Boulevard, Reseda Boulevard, Sepulveda Boulevard, and Van Nuys Boulevard.

"High capacity north-south bus service will be a vital piece of the transportation system in the San Fernando Valley," says Countywide Planning Chief Jim de la Loza. "Metro Rapid service on Ventura Boulevard is hugely successful and we expect the east-west Metro Rapid transitway to draw large numbers of passengers, as well. A north-south corridor will be the right complement for these two lines."

In addition to public input, the study is factoring in employment density, population density, areas of high transit usage, land use condition and population under 15 and over 64.

The recommended project may incorporate such enhancements as enhanced bus stops with canopies, lighting, ticket machines, maps, "next trip" displays, transit signal priority, park and ride facilities, landscaping, and pedestrian and bike access improvements.

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