

**Committees Consider Transit Plan, New Buses, Parking Policy at January Meetings**

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(Jan. 10, 2003) A regional transit plan, the purchase of 70 new buses and a policy to govern the Metro system's 15,000 parking spaces are among more than 40 items to be taken up in January by MTA Board committees.

Committee meetings are scheduled Wednesday, Jan. 15, and Thursday, Jan. 16.

Schedule
<b>Planning &amp; Programming Committee</b> , 1 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15
<b>Construction Committee</b> , 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15
<b>Finance &amp; Budget Committee</b> , 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 16
<b>Executive Management &amp; Budget Committee</b> , 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 16
<b>Metro Gold Line Transition Committee</b> , 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 16
<b>Operations Committee</b> , 1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 16

• **Regional Transit Plan, Item 41, Operations Committee**

The Operations Committee will consider a motion to adopt a countywide Regional Transit Plan for FY 2003 to 2007.

The Regional Transit Plan, which will be incorporated into the Short Range Transportation plan now under development, focuses on improving transit services through the increased cooperation of local transit agencies.

Grouped around themes of customer service, transit operator cooperation and wise use of resources, the Regional Transit Plan has 14 goals.

Goals include expansion of the Rapid Bus Program, a Universal Fare System, improving telephone information services, more regional transit centers and a regional bus stop signage program.

• **Bus Purchase Option, Item 38, Operations Committee**

The Operations Committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to purchase 70 additional high-capacity buses with spare parts and associated equipment for a total of \$28.7 million. The agency originally had ordered 30 of the buses.

If approved, MTA would buy 45-foot, 46-seat NABI coaches made of composite materials. The lightweight, low-floor coaches would be powered by CNG engines.

The buses would be equipped with "slide-glide" rear doors that are wider than those currently used in the fleet to provide better egress and reduce dwell time at bus stops.

NABI already has delivered 780 low-floor CNG buses to MTA and currently is producing 20 more.

• **MTA Parking Policy, Item 14, Planning and Programming Committee**

MTA planners will ask the Board to seek public comment on a draft of a system-wide parking policy. The policy would accompany the agency's Short Range Transportation Plan.

MTA currently controls some 15,000 public parking spaces throughout the Metro

system and may add another 8,000 spaces in coming years.

Lack of parking can slow the development of new transit options. The proposed policy would help manage existing parking facilities and provide direction in the construction of new ones.

The proposal contemplates possible formation of parking “districts” or parking authorities, sharing off-street parking facilities with local businesses, parking charges, rideshare parking preferences and other means of maximizing the use of parking facilities.

- **Prototype Bus Lift, Item 39, Operations Committee**

MTA plans to test an easy-to-maintain, environmentally safe bus lift as a possible replacement for the 15-to-20-year-old units now installed at its operating divisions. The Operations Committee will consider a motion to buy a prototype of the machine, built by Rotary Lift, Inc.

Some 120 in-ground axle-engaging bus lifts are in use at MTA operating divisions. Many have deteriorated noticeably in recent years and can’t easily be repaired.

The Rotary MD30 prototype, which would be installed at South Bay Division 18, would have a steel vault housing coated with fiberglass to deter corrosion and prevent oil leaks. The unit’s modular design can be expanded to accommodate a three-axle articulated bus.

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