

## Transit Policing, Metro Gold Line 'Quiet Zones,' on Board's Agenda

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(Jan. 22, 2003) The MTA Board is expected to vote, Thursday, on a motion authorizing the CEO to negotiate with the Sheriff's Department and with the LAPD to provide transit community policing services.

If approved, MTA could negotiate a memorandum of understanding with either or both of the law enforcement agencies for a period of five years, inclusive of two one-year options.

The motion, Item 5 on the Board's agenda, also would permit the CEO to extend the LASD's and LAPD's current contracts through March 31, 2003. The total cost of extending the two contracts would be \$8.4 million.

The January Board meeting is scheduled at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 23.

### 'Quiet Zones'

The Board is expected to take up a motion by Supervisor Gloria Molina, Item 50, that would establish "quiet zones" in the area of the Metro Gold Line crossings at Avenue 45 near Montecito Heights and Avenue 50 in Mount Washington.

The motion notes that the California Public Utility Commission "has declined to order a quiet zone" prohibiting the use of horns and bells in those neighborhoods, but has ordered MTA to use a "quacker" warning device.

Molina calls for rules prescribing when train operators should sound quackers or other signals and for operating procedures that balance the safety of vehicles and pedestrians with the community's wish to eliminate unnecessary noise from passing trains.

### Public comment rules

Item 32, approved by the Executive Management and Audit Committee and listed on the agenda's consent calendar, is a proposed revision of the rules for public comment during Board and committee meetings.

Among other things, the proposed revision would permit members of the public to speak on an item at both the committee and Board meetings. Public comment periods of at least five minutes could be conducted before and during consideration of an item, with each person being allowed one minute to speak.

The public also could address the board on non-agenda items "within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board" during a public comment period at the end of meetings. The comment period could last for up to 30 minutes, with each person allowed to speak no more than once for a minute.

The meeting's chair may limit the comment period on any item or the total amount of time allowed for public testimony based on the number of persons requesting to speak and the business of the Board. Elected officials may be called to speak out of order or before the item is considered.

Other items of interest in January are:

- Item 41, adoption of a countywide Regional Transit Plan;
- Item 38, a motion authorizing the CEO to purchase 70 additional high-capacity buses;

- Item 14, a motion asking the Board to seek public comment on a draft of a system-wide parking policy; and
- Item 39, a motion to purchase an easy-to-maintain, environmentally safe prototype bus lift.

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