

JANUARY UPDATE:

Board's Votes Covered Range of Transit Issues, Facilities Needs

(Jan. 28, 2003) The MTA Board approved motions at its Jan. 23 meeting that covered a range of important transit issues, but also focused on improving bus maintenance facilities.

Regional Transit Plan. The Board adopted the countywide Regional Transit Plan for FY 2003 to 2007. The plan focuses on improving transit services through the increased cooperation of local transit agencies. It is grouped around themes of customer service, transit operator cooperation and wise use of resources.

System-Wide Parking Policy. With Board approval, MTA will now seek public comment on a draft of a system-wide parking policy. The policy would accompany the agency's Short Range Transportation Plan.

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.

MTA currently controls some 15,000 public parking spaces throughout the Metro system and may add another 8,000 spaces in coming years.

Public Comment Rules. The Board voted to revise the rules for public comment to allow members of the public to speak on an item at both the committee and Board meetings. Public comment periods of at least five minutes may be conducted before and during consideration of an item, with each person being allowed one minute to speak.

The public also may 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.

Replacing Garage Doors. The Board approved MTA plans to replace worn-out garage doors at three field facilities. The agency will buy 55 roll-up doors for installation at Non-Revenue Division 4, West Hollywood Division 7 and South Park Location 14.

The current garage doors at the three locations are worn and fatigued from long service – 20 years at Division 7, 40 years at Division 4 and almost 50 years at South Park. Some don't operate at all and others operate poorly due to advanced wear.

Crews will install 23 doors at Division 4, 11 doors at Division 7 and 21 at South Park. The new doors are expected to reduce maintenance and repair costs and the potential for employee injuries, while improving worker productivity and enhancing the appearance of the maintenance yards.

New Bus Lifts. The Board also approved 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 agency will 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.

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