

FY-04 Budget, Fare Restructuring Lead May Board Agenda

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FY-04 Budget, Fare Restructuring Lead May Board Agenda

(May 20, 2003) **(The FY 2004 budget was approved by the Board, May 22)** Adoption of the FY 2004 budget and a motion to restructure Metro fares for the first time in eight years are likely to dominate Thursday's MTA Board meeting, but there are other items of interest on the agenda.

The MTA staff is recommending adoption of a balanced \$2.8 billion budget, that includes funding for 9,082 full-time positions, 104 fewer than authorized in FY 2003. The motion is Item 16 on the Board's agenda.

Bus and rail operating expenditures are projected at \$951 million. The FY 2004 budget would include \$683 million for capital expenditures, \$791 million for regional programs and subsidies, \$61 million for the General Fund and \$274 million for debt service.

Item 34, Fare restructuring

(Approved by the Board, May 22) A revised staff recommendation recommends no change in fares charged senior citizens, students and disabled persons. Under the staff proposal now before the Board, cash fares would drop and discount tokens would be continued.

The staff is recommending restructuring Metro fares to offset potential operating deficits that could reach \$1.4 billion over the next 10 years. Today, MTA recovers only 29 percent of its operating expenses from the farebox.

The fare proposal calls for a new \$3 day pass, while discontinuing transfers. It would raise the price of the monthly pass to \$52 from the current \$42.

Item 40, Station dedication

(Approved by the Board, May 22. An amendment adds the words "or any other appropriate MTA facility" to the motion. It also directs staff to recommend which facility should be renamed to honor John Dyer.)

Director John Fasana has filed a motion to recognize the "commendable efforts and pioneering years of dedicated service" of former SCRTD General Manager John Dyer by naming a Metro Red Line station in his honor.

Dyer, who died at his home of a heart attack May 3, was a major force behind the funding and early construction of the subway. He built political support for the Metro Red Line and secured \$2.55 billion in funding for its first and second phases.

Fasana's motion would direct the MTA staff to determine which station would be most appropriate to rename in Dyer's honor "as a tribute to his significant and material contributions to the mobility betterment and for improving the quality of life for residents and visitors in Los Angeles County."

Item 32, Metro Gold Line stations

(Approved by the Board, May 22. An amendment calls for naming one Eastside Extension station the "Boyle Heights/Mariachi Plaza station.") The Board also will consider a motion by Supervisor Gloria Molina, Item 32, to rename eight Metro Gold Line stations – three on the Union Station to Pasadena route and five future stations on the Eastside Extension.

The motion also would direct MTA staff to work with the Eastside Review Advisory Committee and the cities of Pasadena and South Pasadena on the possible renaming of other stations.

Item 37, Venice Division 6

(Approved by the Board, May 22. The MTA staff was directed to provide a report in 30 days on the sewers at the proposed Division 6 site.) This motion would authorize the CEO to enter a three-month exclusive negotiation agreement with developer RAD Jefferson, LLC, for an exchange of MTA's 3.13-acre Venice Division 6 site for a 4.66-acre site in West Los Angeles.

Item 29, Bus Operator Simulator

See metro.net report: [Driving Simulator Will Help Train Metro Bus Operators](#)

(Approved by the Board, May 22, pending resolution of a protest by a competing company. See "Driving Simulator May Help Train Metro Bus Operators" posted May 23.) The Board will consider a motion to award a \$441,672 contract to an Ann Arbor, Mich., company for a Bus Operator Simulation Training System.

Computer-generated software and a digital audio sound system produce sights and sounds designed so that operators react to situations as if they actually were on the road. It can simulate 40-foot and 45-foot buses, as well as a 60-foot articulated bus.

Item 39, Gateway Cities Council Members

(Approved by the Board, May 22) The Board will consider approval of seven individuals who have been proposed as members of the Gateway Cities Service Sector Governance Council.

Members of the group are Bonnie Lowenthal, Long Beach council member; Larry Nelson, Artesia council member; Samuel Pena, Maywood mayor pro tem; Joann Ero-Delgado, a South Whittier transit consumer; Jacqueline Rynerson, a Lakewood community activist; Wally Shidler, a Walnut Park transit consumer and Cynde Soto, a Long Beach transit consumer.

Item 36, Wilshire/Vermont Development

(Approved by the Board, May 22) The motion would authorize the CEO to enter into a ground lease with Wilshire Vermont Development, LLC, for 3.24 acres of MTA property at the Wilshire/Vermont Metro Red Line station. The company plans a mixed-use apartment and retail complex on the site.

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