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Budget Crisis Forces Termination of 2003 Call for Projects

(Jan. 21, 2004) Threatened with the loss of millions in state transportation funding and facing a budget crisis, MTA has taken the extraordinary measure of terminating the 2003 Call for Projects.

The move, outlined by CEO Roger Snoble in a report to the MTA Board, affects 363 local transportation projects valued at \$2.3 billion. It is the first time since the Call for Projects process began in 1991 that one has been cancelled.

Call for Projects money typically funds road improvements, car-pool lanes, bikeways and other transportation improvements. The county's 88 cities compete for the funding allotted in a Call for Projects.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed reallocating \$1 billion in transportation funding to the state's General Fund to help close a \$15 billion gap predicted for the next fiscal year.

Funding for congestion relief already has been cut, a move that may cause California to lose \$8 billion in federal transportation funds through 2010 if the state fails to meet its clean-air goals.

"Until the state can get its financial books in order, it is clear that funding is not available for the 2003 Call for Projects," Snoble's report states. He said MTA is working to ensure that projects approved earlier continue to move forward.

Snoble said MTA is "actively working with...the State Legislature and the Governor's Administration in advocating for Los Angeles County's mobility needs...."