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Transportation Project Funding on Committee's Agenda

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(Feb. 13, 2004) The MTA Board's Planning and Programming Committee will focus on funding for the region's important transportation improvement programs during its Wednesday meeting. The item is one of many scheduled to be considered at February committee meetings.

Transportation Improvement Program, Item 6: The Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion that would implement MTA's Short Range Transportation Plan.

The motion includes approval of \$1.79 billion in funding for various transportation-related projects, as well as reprogramming or approval of sales tax revenues for replacement projects.

Approval of the motion would establish the MTA Board's priorities for the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Projects and for other funds anticipated from MTA's 2003 Short Range Transportation Plan.

The Short Range Transportation Plan includes bus and rail car purchases, bus facility maintenance and support equipment, the Metro Orange Line and Bus Rapid Transit projects in the Wilshire and San Fernando Valley transit corridors.

Strike's Financial Impact, Item 9: The Executive Management and Audit Committee will receive a report indicating that MTA did not expend approximately \$7.4 million in sale tax funds during the 35-day transit strike last fall.

The Board has directed that all strike-related savings be used to benefit the customer. The staff recommends that the \$7.4 million be set aside until the financial impacts of the Special Master's recent Consent Decree ruling are determined.

Homeland Security Grant, Item 30: The Operations Committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to accept a \$4,577,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The grant will fund

February Committee Meetings

- **Planning and Programming Committee**, 1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18
- **Executive Management and Audit Committee**, 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 19
- **Finance and Budget Committee**, 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 19
- **Construction Committee**, 11 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 19
- **Operations Committee**, 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19

several important security upgrades over the next two years.

This will be the second federal grant MTA has received to improve security. In 2002, the agency received a \$50,000 Federal Transit Administration grant to support anti-terrorism exercises.

Operations Performance Report, Item 23: The Operations Committee will receive a monthly report for December 2003. The report shows that fewer customer complaints were recorded during December, although complaints were still above target. Metro Bus in-service, on-time performance improved in December. Metro Rail operations exceed its goal for mean miles between vehicle failures.

Bus Procurement Update, Item 25: A report to the Operations Committee notes that 15 40-foot CompoBuses have been shipped to MTA from the manufacturer, NABI. Thirteen have been accepted and are in operation at Divisions 2, 5 and 7.

Deliveries of 45-foot CompoBuses are to begin in May. MTA has ordered 100 of the vehicles from NABI. Delivery of the first 30 NABI-built, 60-foot articulated buses is to be completed by June 2005, with the remaining 170 vehicles arriving by June 2006. MTA also expects to start a formal procurement for up to five hybrid-electric, 60-foot articulated buses during the next quarter.

Financial Reports, Items 14 and 15: The Finance and Budget Committee will receive two reports – the FY 2003 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the FY 2003 Financial Performance Report.

The Annual Financial Report includes an independent auditor's report, along with a management analysis of MTA's financial situation. The Financial Performance Report presents sales tax revenues, summaries of bus and rail operations and a summary of the capital projects fund.