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## Hearings Set at MTA, Friday, on State Budget Cuts, Gas Prices

(March 25, 2004) CEO Roger Snoble will testify, Friday, at a joint hearing called by State Senate and LA City Council transportation committees to determine the impact on MTA of proposed state budget cuts.

The session, which begins at 2 p.m. in the MTA Board Room, will follow a 10 a.m. hearing scheduled by State Assemblymember Jenny Oropeza, chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee, who will take testimony on the state's soaring gasoline prices.

The afternoon hearing will look at how proposed transportation funding cuts and Governor Schwarzenegger's budget proposals will affect MTA and transportation in LA County.

The hearing will be jointly conducted by Sen. Kevin Murray (D-Los Angeles), chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee; Sen. Joseph Dunn (D-Santa Ana), chairman of a Senate Budget Committee subcommittee; and City Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa, chairman of the Council's Transportation Committee and also an MTA Board member.

Transportation Committee Chair Oropeza, a former MTA Board member, has invited policy, business, consumer and transportation experts to testify at the morning hearing.

Among those expected to testify are Jamie Court, Foundation for Consumer and Taxpayer Rights; Jack Kyser, chief economist for the LA County Economic Development Corp.; Pat Perez, manager of the Fuels Division of the California Energy Commission and representatives for automobile associations.

Oropeza has scheduled a second hearing on gasoline prices for April 1, but no time or location have been set.