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Committee Issues Range From Congestion Plan to Anti-Terrorism Training

(July 14, 2004) MTA Board committees meeting this week will consider issues ranging from adoption of the 2004 Congestion Management Plan to anti-terrorism training.

Congestion Management Plan, Item 7:

The Planning and Programming Committee will consider adopting the biennial Congestion Management Plan. The document details improvements that include the elimination of some 5.6 million daily vehicle miles traveled, representing \$613 million in annual savings to the public in time and fuel. These improvements benefit local and regional mobility needs and support the county's transportation system.

2004 Call for Projects, Item 9: The committee will consider recommendations that include recertifying \$61.6 million in existing FY 2004-05 commitments from previous Call for Projects and authorizing the expenditure of funds to meet those commitments.

FY 2005 Transit Funds, Item 10: The committee will consider recommendations that include approving \$1.1 billion in FY 2005 Transit Fund Allocations for LA County jurisdictions, transit operators and Metro Operations.

Anti-Terrorism Trainer, Item 20: The Executive Management and Audit Committee will consider a recommendation to modify Metro's contract with the Sheriff's Department to include up to \$116,813 to cover the cost of an anti-terrorism trainer for July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005. At its May meeting, the Board added \$500,000 in funding to cover LASD emergency services.

With \$4.577 million in funding from a Homeland Security Department grant, Metro will make certain security improvements on the regional Metro Bus and Rail system, including a full-time anti-terrorism trainer. The trainer will teach anti-terrorism techniques to Metro supervisors, managers, in-house training staff and other employees.

75 New CNG Buses, Item 35: The Operations Committee will consider a motion to purchase an additional 75 40-foot CNG buses from North American Bus Industries for a not-to-exceed cost of \$30 million.

Buying the new buses will ensure that Metro has enough new coaches – and passenger seats – to comply with a Consent Decree ruling. The ruling requires the agency to buy the equivalent of 145 new buses by June 30, 2005 and another 381 new buses by June 30, 2007 – a total of 526 new buses and 21,052 passenger seats.

Board Committee Schedule

Wednesday, July 14

Planning and Programming Committee, 1 p.m.

Thursday, July 15

Executive Management and Audit Committee, 9:30 a.m.

Finance and Budget Committee, 10:30 a.m.

Construction Committee, 11:30 a.m.

Operations Committee, 1 p.m.

The 75 buses in the NABI order, when combined with other high-capacity 45-foot and 60-foot buses currently on order, will put a total of 205 new buses into revenue service by June 30, 2005.

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