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## 3 Division Construction Projects on Ops Committee Agenda

(Aug. 13, 2004) Metro is planning substantial construction projects at three operating divisions in coming months. Motions to approve the projects will come before the Operations Committee, Aug.19.

The agency wants to build a new transportation and sector office building at San Gabriel Valley Division 9; build repair and car wash facilities and expand parking at Non-Revenue Division 4; and build a vehicle cleaning facility at Metro Green Line Division 22.

In other business, the Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion to seek LA City Council approval for permanent bus-only lanes on Wilshire Boulevard. The Executive Management and Audit Committee will hear a report on the feasibility of a Metro transit court similar to one operated by New York City's MTA.

**Division 9 Transportation Building, Item 29:** The Operations Committee will consider a motion for approvals needed prior to awarding a contract to build a three-story, 41,891-square foot building to house the Division 9 transportation staff, the San Gabriel Valley Service Sector office and a substation for Sheriff's deputies.

The new offices would be built adjacent to the east side of the El Monte Transit Center parking structure.

Construction of the proposed transportation building, under the supervision of Metro's Facilities Operations Department, is scheduled to begin in December, with a completion date of March 2006.

Construction of the new building is the first phase of a master plan for Division 9. Phase II, currently unfunded but planned for future fiscal years, calls for construction of a new maintenance building, improvements to the Transit Center and expansion of parking to accommodate about 300 CNG buses. Division 9 was built in 1974 and has a current fleet of 192 buses.

**Division 4 Expansion, Item 28:** The Operations Committee will consider a motion to expand Non-Revenue Division 4 by constructing a new repair building with two vehicle maintenance bays, office and storage space, and a new automatic car washer capable of handling an average of 40 cars a day.

An adjacent vacant parcel north of the division would be cleared, paved and striped to expand non-revenue vehicle parking from 258 to

## Board committee meetings

### Planning and Programming

1 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 18

### Executive Management and Audit

9:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 19

### Finance and Budget

10:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 19

### Operations

1 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 19

### Construction

no August meeting

500 spaces. The extra parking is needed due to the planned closing of South Park and the consolidation of non-revenue maintenance.

This project, scheduled to begin in October with completion in May 2005, also would be under the supervision of the Facilities Operations Department.

**Metro Green Line Facility, Item 30:** The Operations Committee will consider a motion to construct a vehicle cleaning – or “blow-down” – facility at Metro Green Line Division 22 in Lawndale.

The 3,500 square foot building would accommodate one light-rail car. A pit will provide undercarriage access to the cars so rail maintenance crews can clean the wheel assemblies, components and other parts.

With construction of the “blow-down” facility, Metro Green Line cars can be cleaned at their own division, rather than transferring them to Metro Blue Line Division 11. The project is under the supervision of the Metro Rail’s Wayside Systems Department.

**Wilshire Bus-Only Lanes, Item 9:** The Planning and Programming, and Operations committees will consider a motion to direct the CEO to work with LADOT to obtain City Council approval for permanent bus-only lanes on a one-mile stretch of Wilshire Boulevard west of I-405.

The motion also calls for Metro to evaluate which other Metro Rapid corridors might be appropriate for bus-only lanes.

The Wilshire Boulevard lanes, which have been under study since last March, are showing average bus travel time savings of up to 6 percent in the morning peak period and up to 14 percent during the afternoon peak.

**Metro Transit Court, Item 13:** The Executive Management and Audit Committee will hear a report on a proposed Metro transit court that would rule on citations issued for such transit-related offenses as fare evasion, vandalism and smoking, eating or littering on the Metro Bus and Metro Rail systems.

“The general belief,” says a Board report prepared by Metro Police Chief Capt. Dan Finkelstein, “is that transit matters tend to receive insufficient attention and focus...” from Superior Court judges in 20 different courts who hear a wide variety of matters in LA County.

Over the past six year, according to the Board report, Metro collected \$3.9 million from 309,980 citations issued – an average of \$12.62 per citation.

In 2002, New York City’s MTA – the only property with a transit court – collected \$6.2 million in fines, while spending \$4 million to conduct transit court hearings and collect fines.