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Committees to Consider Motion on Subway Construction Ban

(Oct. 15, 2004) The Board's Planning and Programming and Construction committees are scheduled to consider a motion, next week, aimed at overturning a voter-approved ban on subway construction.

Other committees will address such issues as a ten-year forecast of Metro revenues and expenditures, a proposed commercial and residential development on Metro-owned property in Boyle Heights, a motion to give Security officers authority to write parking tickets on agency property, and a motion concerning data collection for the UFS system.

Items 7 & 21, Subway Construction

Ban: Los Angeles City Councilman and MTA Director Tom LaBonge is asking the Board to "support an effort to overturn the 1998 prohibition on the use of Proposition A funds (for) subway construction...."

A similar motion recently won unanimous approval by members of the Los Angeles City Council. Now, the Board's Planning and Programming Committee and the Construction Committee both are scheduled to consider the issue.

LaBonge's motion is aimed at ensuring that "the option of constructing subways will be available to address the difficult transportation challenges in Southern California."

Passed by LA County voters in November 1998, Proposition A bans Metro from spending sales tax revenues on subway projects.

Item 16, Ten Year Forecast: The Finance and Budget Committee will hear a staff report on the FY 2005 Ten Year Forecast, which identifies expected revenues from sales taxes, fares and grants and how the money will be spent on operations and capital projects.

Among other projections, the forecast anticipates an average annual sale tax growth rate of 4.1 percent and a 10-year operating and capital deficit of \$850 million.

Item 6, Boyle Heights Development: A local developer wants to build a multi-screen theater complex, 139 residential units and 74,000 square feet of retail space on a 3.55-acre site owned by Metro in Boyle Heights.

Committee Meetings for October

- **Planning and Programming**
Wednesday, Oct. 20, 1 p.m.
- **Executive Management and Audit**
Thursday, Oct. 21, 9:30 a.m.
- **Finance and Budget**
Thursday, Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m.
- **Construction**
Thursday, Oct. 21, 11:30 a.m.
- **Operations**
Thursday, Oct. 21, 1 p.m.
- **Full Board Meeting**
Thursday, Oct. 28, 9:30 a.m.

The Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion giving the CEO authority to enter a six-month exclusive negotiation agreement with the developer, C. Chavez/Soto, LLC.

The proposed development site, located in a two-block section of Cesar Chavez Avenue between Soto and Fickett streets, currently is being used for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension construction office.

The proposed development would be located about two blocks north of the Metro Gold Line station at 1st and Soto.

Item 26, Parking Citations: The Operations Committee will consider a motion giving Metro Security officers authority to issue tickets for parking violations on agency property. Illegal parking usually occurs in clearly marked and posted areas, according to a report to the Board.

In addition to helping solve parking problems, the revenue from the citations will be used to offset security and enforcement costs. Metro Security officers would not be permitted to issue parking tickets in a bus zone or other areas "considered to be an extension of the public highway."

Item 27, Universal Fare System: The Operations Committee will consider a motion giving the CEO authority to negotiate a \$6.1 million contract modification with Cubic Transportation Systems, Inc., to provide a regional central data computer system for the Universal Fare System's TAP card program.

The central data computer system would be the primary collection point for bus and rail fare information gathered each day from Metro and the municipal transit operators participating in the TAP (smart card) program.

In other action, the Operations Committee will hear a staff report (Item 24) on the accumulation of trash along the Union Pacific tracks that parallel the Metro Blue Line, and a report (Item 25) about the requirement for Metro Bus operators to announce stops and to assist customers with disabilities.