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More Transit-Oriented Developments Proposed for Metro Sites

Viewpoint

- Item 9, Development of Taylor Yards.
- Item 10, Metro Rail Station Development.
- Item 20, Metro Rapid Advertising.
- Item 21, Video Screens on Metro Buses.
- Item 11, Metro Orange Line FEIR.

(Jan. 18, 2005) Two proposed residential and retail developments on Metro-owned property at the Taylor Yards and at the Vermont/Santa Monica Metro Rail station will come before the Planning and Programming committee on Wednesday.

Other items of interest in January's round of committee and Board meetings include two proposals for advertising and video programming on Metro buses, as well as additional parking at the Canoga station, a newly approved stop to be built on the Metro Orange Line in Warner Center.

Item 9 was carried over for further discussion during the February meeting of the Planning and Programming Committee.

Item 9, Development of Taylor Yards. Last July, Metro received a proposal from a developer to build 238 rental units, 76 homes and 62,600 square feet of retail space at the Taylor Yards.

The site comprises about 24 acres of land next to the Metrolink maintenance-of-way facility between San Fernando Road and the Los Angeles River. The Metro-owned land lies between the Pasadena Freeway (I-110) and the Glendale Freeway (I-2).

The Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to enter a six-month exclusive negotiation agreement with Taylor Yards, LLC. Since the early 1900s, the Taylor Yard and surrounding area has served as a rail storage, maintenance and repair facility for freight trains.

Item 10 approved by the committee and sent to the full Board.

Item 10, Metro Rail Station Development. Last May, Metro received a proposal from a developer to build 200 rental units and 18,700 square feet of retail space at the Vermont/Santa Monica Metro Rail station. The proposed development, which includes Saint Nicholas Foundation property, totals 1.5 acres.

The Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to enter a six-month exclusive negotiation agreement with Vermont/Santa Monica Metro Red Line Station, LLC.

Item 20 approved by the committee and sent to the full Board.

Item 20, Metro Rapid Advertising. The Executive Management and Audit Committee will consider a motion amending Metro's advertising policy to permit ads on the outside of Metro Rapid buses.

A report submitted to the committee says Metro will receive some \$13.7 million from bus advertising in FY 2005. But, the report notes that, since Metro Rapid was introduced in 2000, the total number of buses that accept advertising has declined.

By amending the policy to permit ads on Metro Rapid buses, the report says, the agency stands to gain as much as \$6.5 million in ad revenue this fiscal year.

Item 21 approved by the committee and sent to the full Board.

Item 21, Video Screens on Metro Buses. The Executive Management and Audit Committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to sign a 10-year revenue contract with Transit Television Network.

At no cost to the agency, the company would install two small video monitors on each Metro Bus to show customized TV programs. The programming would include news, sports and entertainment programming, simple games, commercial ads and transit advertising.

Item 11 approved by the committee and sent to the full Board.

Item 11, Metro Orange Line FEIR. The Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion to approve and certify an Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Metro Orange Line.

The Addendum provides environmental clearance for additional surface parking – the North Parking Lot – on Metro-owned property adjacent to the Canoga station and park-and-ride-lot previously approved by the Board.

The new station and parking lot will be located on the old Boeing site at Canoga Avenue in Warner Center. Together, both lots will provide some 840 parking spaces.

The motion requests approval for the CEO to include this parking in the planned construction contract for a one-third mile extension of the Orange Line. The extension would include the busway, a bikeway and pedestrian path and landscaping – all leading to the new Canoga station.

The Addendum also covers modifications to a small portion of a planned pedestrian path along Chandler Boulevard as part of the Orange Line project.

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