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Board OKs Funding for Division 1 Expansion, Approves Other Motions

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(Feb. 4, 2005) The Board of Directors approved a motion in January funding the expansion of Central City Division 1. Other actions include expansion and operation of the Metro Orange Line, and new ways to gain more advertising revenue.

January Board actions included:

Item 36, Division 1 Expansion. The Board approved a motion that adds \$4.02 million to the Division 1 expansion project, which now totals approximately \$11.5 million. The Board also voted to amend the FY 2005 budget to include \$2.8 million in federal funding and \$700,000 in local matching funds.

Division 1 is being expanded onto a three-acre site just to the south of the existing facility at Central Avenue and East 6th Street. The expansion will accommodate parking for up to 100 more buses as well as employee vehicles. Phase 1 construction of the new parking area and a fuel island should be completed in April 2005.

Item 11, Metro Orange Line FEIR. The Board approved 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. Together, both lots will provide some 840 parking spaces.

The Board's action also includes construction of a bikeway and pedestrian path and landscaping leading to the new Canoga station.

Item 41, Metro Orange Line Operation. The Board approved a motion by Director John Fasana directing the staff to report back to

the Operations and the Executive Management and Audit committees in February on the cost of providing Metro Orange Line service “within the organization versus the cost of contracting out the operation of services, maintenance of vehicles, and the maintenance of the Right of Way and fixed guideway.”

Fasana’s motion says Metro will operate 64,000 hours of new service on the line and could save \$2 million to \$3 million annually through contracting “without negatively impacting the jobs of existing employees.” Citing Metro’s budget deficits, the motion notes that, “Contract services cost 30% less to operate than service operated directly by Metro Operations.”

Item 20, Metro Rapid Advertising. The Board approved a motion amending Metro’s advertising policy to permit ads on the outside of Metro Rapid buses.

By amending the policy to permit ads on Metro Rapid buses, the agency stands to gain as much as \$3.25 million in ad revenue by the end of fiscal year 2007.

Item 21, Video Screens on Metro Buses. The Board approved a motion authorizing the CEO to sign a 10-year revenue contract with Transit Television Network.

The company plans to 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 10, Metro Rail Station Development. The Board approved a motion authorizing the CEO to enter a six-month exclusive negotiation agreement with Vermont/Santa Monica Metro Red Line Station, LLC.

The developer wants to build 200 rental units and 18,700 square feet of retail space at the station. The proposed development, which includes Saint Nicholas Foundation property, totals 1.5 acres.

Item 40, Governance Council Appointments. The Board approved the appointment of two Westside/Central Service Sector Governance Council members nominated by Mayor James Hahn. Gregory J. Fischer serves as transportation deputy to District 9 City Councilwoman Jan Perry. Carlos Collard is an administrative analyst for Santa Monica’s Big Blue Bus.