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FY 2005 Budget Shortfall to Receive Board Committee Attention

(Feb. 15, 2005) Metro's FY 2005 budget will receive attention, this month, as Board members wrestle with a projected shortfall of \$42.2 million. Rail tunneling and names for Metro Orange Line stations also are on committee agendas.

Item 26, FY 2005 Budget Amendment.

The Finance and Budget Committee will consider a motion aimed at meeting Metro's anticipated FY 2005 budget shortfall of approximately \$42.2 million.

The motion would approve the transfer of \$19.2 million from the capital program to the operating program and amend the FY 2005 budget to move up to \$8.2 million from the General Fund into the Enterprise Fund for additional bus operations fuel costs.

The motion includes moving up to \$8 million in Proposition A 35 percent funds to be used for rail operations. The motion also calls for eliminating 14 positions as a result of the capital program changes.

Item 14, Rail Tunneling. The Planning and Programming Committee is scheduled to consider a motion by LA City Councilman Tom LaBonge directing the CEO to include a policy, standards and criteria on "where best to construct underground rail."

The motion would direct the CEO to work to remove the federal prohibition on use of federal funds for rail tunneling in "gas risk areas." The motion also calls for analyzing the impact on the transportation sales tax if the tunneling restrictions were removed, as well as assessing the "potential financial implications" on such projects as the Eastside Extension if there were no restriction on tunneling.

Item 29, Orange Line Station Names. A "receive and file" item with proposed names for stations on the Metro Orange Line will be presented to the Construction Committee. The names were developed in keeping with the Property Naming Policy adopted by the Board in August 2003.

The policy requires that stations carry an official name and an operational name. The official and operational names proposed for the 13 Metro Orange Line stations are the same with two exceptions – Woodman/Valley Glen will have the operational name of Woodman,

February Committee Meetings

• Wednesday, Feb. 16

- Planning and Programming, 1 p.m.

• Thursday, Feb. 17

- Executive Management and Audit, 9:30 a.m.
- Finance and Budget, 10:30 a.m.
- Construction, 11:30 a.m.
- Operations, 1 p.m.

• Thursday, Feb. 24

- Full Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

and Laurel Canyon/Valley Village will have the operational name of Laurel Canyon.

The other station names are Warner Center, De Soto, Pierce College, Tampa, Reseda, Balboa, Woodley, Sepulveda, Van Nuys, Valley College and North Hollywood.

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