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Metro Rapid Service, Signal Priority on Committee Agendas

- Also, bike lockers and racks, contract bus service

(April 19, 2005) Two items involving Metro Rapid service are on agendas for Board committees in April – one concerning new service on Fairfax Avenue and on North Sepulveda and a second involving a contract for a countywide signal priority expansion project.

Item 7, New Metro Rapid Service. The Planning and Programming and Operations committees will consider a motion to provide Metro Rapid service on Fairfax Avenue between Hollywood & Vine and the West LA Transit Center beginning in June 2005.

The motion includes rescheduling the opening of Metro Rapid service on North Sepulveda from June 2005 to June 2006, with a goal of implementing it as early as December 2005, if funds are available.

The five-year plan for Metro Rapid calls for service on 28 transit corridors to be phased in through FY-2008.

Item 10, Metro Rapid Signal Priority. The Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion to award a three-year, \$6.7 million contract with an \$800,000 option to PB Farradyne for a countywide Metro Rapid signal priority expansion project.

The plan would provide signal priority for Metro Rapid buses operating in transit corridors outside the City of Los Angeles. Targeted corridors include Florence Avenue, Soto Street, Hawthorne Boulevard and Long Beach Boulevard.

The first Metro Rapid line with signal priority outside the City of LA was Line 710, opened in February 2004 on Crenshaw Boulevard.

By 2009, the agency expects to open nine Metro Rapid corridors through 28 separate jurisdictions. Four of these routes are slated to open within the next two fiscal years, and have “an immediate need to initiate signal priority design, equipment procurement and implementation,” according to the staff report.

Item 31, Bike Lockers and Racks. The Construction Committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to award a \$234,628 contract Johnson Barnes & Finch, Inc., of Lakeside, Calif., for 104 bicycle lockers and 78 bicycle racks for use on the Metro Orange Line.

Board of Directors

April Committee Meetings

Wednesday, April 20

Planning and Programming, 1 p.m.

Thursday, April 21

Executive Management and Audit, 9 a.m.

Finance and Budget, 10:30 a.m.

Construction, 11:30 a.m.

Operations, 1 p.m.

Eight bike lockers and six racks will be installed at each of the 13 full-featured stations on the line. The Metro Orange Line is slated to open later this year to operate between the North Hollywood Metro Rail station and Warner Center in the San Fernando Valley.

Items 43, 44 and 45, Contract Bus Service. The Operations Committee will consider motions to award five-year, fixed-unit rate contracts to three transit firms to operate Metro contract bus service.

- **Item 43** would authorize the CEO to award a \$43.2 million contract to Transportation Concepts to operate four routes – Lines 96, 167, 218 and 603 – in the North Region.
- **Item 44** would authorize the CEO to award a \$33.2 million contract to Southland Transit to operate six routes – Lines 177, 254, 256, 266, 270 and 605 – in the East Region.
- **Item 45** would authorize the CEO to award a \$76.9 million contract to First Transit, Inc., to operate 10 routes – Lines 125, 128, 130, 205, 214, 225, 232, 607, 608 and 625 – in the South Region.