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Adoption of FY 2006 Budget to Lead Way at May Committees

- [Item 24, FY 2006 Budget.](#)
- [Item 16, Drug and Alcohol Policy.](#)
- [Item 17, Positions and Compensation.](#)
- [Item 19, Transit Police Services.](#)
- [Items 7 and 27, Air Quality Funding.](#)
- [Item 43, Rail Scheduling Program.](#)

(May 17, 2005) Adoption of the proposed FY 2006 Budget promises to get most of the attention during Board committee meetings, this month, but two motions concerning jobs, compensation and Metro's drug and alcohol policy should be of interest to employees.

Also on the committee agendas are motions concerning Transit Police services in 2006 and funding for bus purchases. A public hearing on the Budget is scheduled for Thursday, May 19.

Item 24, FY 2006 Budget. The Finance and Budget Committee will hold a public hearing for the proposed \$2.86 billion FY 2006 Budget and will consider a motion to adopt the budget at the committee meeting to follow. The motion includes provisions concerning funding for capital construction and acquisition, non-contract employee positions and salary ranges, contract pay and benefits, a \$4.7 million fuel reserve, and an expenditure of \$4 million for security on the Metro Orange Line.

Item 16, Drug and Alcohol Policy. The Executive Management and Audit Committee will consider a motion to adopt a revised drug- and alcohol-free work environment policy that includes a newly created Rail Post-Incident Test and clarifies ambiguous sections of the policy.

Metro's drug- and alcohol-free work environment policy "strictly prohibits employees from using illegal drugs at all times; prohibits unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession and use of any controlled substance in the workplace; and prohibits alcohol consumption while on duty, subject to duty or present on any Metro property."

Board of Directors May Meetings

• Wednesday, May 18

- Planning and Programming, 1 p.m.

• Thursday, May 19

- Executive Management and Audit, 9 a.m.
- Public Hearing, FY 2006 Proposed Budget, 10:30 a.m.
- Finance and Budget, 10:30 a.m.
- Construction, 11:30 a.m.
- Operations, 1 p.m.

• Thursday, May 26

- Board of Directors monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Item 17, Positions and Compensation. The Executive Management and Audit Committee will consider a motion to adopt a revised job position and employee compensation policy, along with a non-contract salary schedule that reflects inflationary increases.

The revised policy would allow the Board to retain overall control of Metro's salary schedule and provide for annual approval by the Board of wages and benefits. It also would provide for Board approval of all salary offers in excess of the salary range midpoint, plus 10 percent, or in excess of \$125,000 a year.

Item 19, Transit Police Services. The Executive Management and Audit Committee will consider a motion to modify the memorandum of understanding with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which provides deputies, fare inspectors and staff for the Transit Services Bureau.

The motion calls for not-to-exceed funding of \$54.2 million for transit security services in FY 2006. It would include an additional \$4.7 million to expand security services for the Metro Orange Line "if revenues can be identified for the period of July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006."

If funding is identified for Metro Orange Line security, LASD would provide an estimated 13 patrol deputies and a team leader, four motorcycle deputies and 12 fare inspectors. Ten fare inspectors would be transferred from the Metro Blue or Green Lines; the other two would be new positions.

Items 7 and 27, Air Quality Funding. The Planning and Programming and Finance and Budget committees will consider a motion to program \$26.6 million in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement funds for purchase of 75 40-foot CNG buses from North American Bus Industries. The Board optioned the purchase with NABI in July, 2004.

Item 43, Rail Scheduling Program. The Operations Committee will consider a motion to award a \$352,190 contract to Giro, Inc., to upgrade Metro's HASTUS system to handle Metro Rail vehicle, crew and roster scheduling. Currently, rail schedules are develop manually. HASTUS has been used since 1997 for bus and operator scheduling and the proposed upgrade would consolidate all Transit Operations scheduling into one system.