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Committee Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday, Aug. 17
 - Planning and Programming, 1 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 18
 - Executive Management and Audit, 9 a.m.
 - Construction, 10:30 a.m.
 - Operations, 12 p.m.

Board Committees to Consider Insurance Plans, Cafeteria Vendor, Rail Yard Development

IN THIS REPORT:
[Group Insurance Plans](#)
[New Cafeteria Vendor](#)
[Development at Metro Rail Yard](#)
[Big Rig Tow Demonstration Project](#)
[Vehicle Purchases](#)

(Aug. 16, 2005) Employee group insurance plans, a new cafeteria vendor and a proposed development at a Metro Rail yard are among motions Board committees will consider this week.

Item 11, Group Insurance Plans. The Executive Management and Audit Committee will consider a motion renewing group insurance policies for Non-Contract and AFSCME Group Insurance Plans, including medical, dental, vision, life, accidental death and dismemberment, and long-term disability coverage, which becomes effective Jan. 1, 2006.

Annually, employees may choose the plan coverage they want, and may waive medical or dental coverage to receive a taxable cash benefit. Non-contract and AFSCME employees will contribute 10 percent of the annual premium cost for the medical and dental plans.

If approved by the Board, monthly employee contributions would rise between \$3 and \$10 for Blue Cross PPO coverage, depending upon plan chosen; between \$3 and \$8 for Blue Cross HMO coverage; and between \$2 and \$5 for Kaiser HMO coverage. No increase is scheduled for Delta Dental PPO, Dental Health Services or Deltacare coverage.

Item 26. New Cafeteria Vendor. The Operations committee will consider a motion awarding a five-year contract with five one-year options to ARAMARK Services, Inc., to operate the cafeteria at Metro Headquarters and at the Regional Rebuild Center beginning Oct. 1. The revenue value of the contract is \$366,000 over the initial five-year period. The current vendor is Sodexho, which has held the contract

since September 1995.

According to a Board report, ARAMARK plans to operate the cafeteria more like a restaurant than a traditional cafeteria, "creating excitement within the restaurant while maintaining a high level of quality and consistency." Food service would include a HotZone, SaladZone and GrillZone, each with core menu items that would change weekly. Service would include weekly specials, promotions, home meal replacement and seasonal items, as well as online catering service within the Gateway Building and the RRC.

Item 7, Development at Metro Rail Yard. The Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to negotiate with a firm that wants to build 420 to 480 apartments, retail units and some 700 parking spaces on a 2.7-acre parcel of the Metro Red Line Division 20 yard. Two hundred parking spaces would be reserved for Metro employees.

Item 25. Big Rig Tow Demonstration Project. The Operations Committee will consider a motion authorizing the CEO to award a three-year, \$2.5 million contract to U.S. Tow, Inc., to conduct a heavy-duty big rig tow demonstration on the I-710 Long Beach Freeway.

The Board report notes that the increasing number of big rig trucks carrying cargo containers from the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports are heavily concentrated on the I-710 and that a single truck breakdown can significantly increase congestion, adding to travel time and impacting commerce.

The contractor would use two heavy-duty tow trucks owned by Metro to provide short-term assistance or a tow to big rig operators. If approved, the demonstration would be the first of its kind in the nation focused on freeway congestion caused by motor freight carriers.

The demonstration project, similar to the Freeway Service Patrol for motorists, would be in operation beginning Oct. 1 from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, on an 18-mile stretch of the I-710 from the Pacific Coast Highway to just north of the I-5 Santa Ana Freeway.

Items 23 and 24. Vehicle Purchases. The Operations Committee will consider motions authorizing the CEO to purchase 36 SUVs for use by transportation operations supervisors (Item 23) and to buy five tow tractors for use in vehicle maintenance (Item 24).

The 36 SUVs, with a total purchase price of \$890,390, will replace existing vehicles that now exceed FTA replacement guidelines and Metro's six-year, 100,000-mile replacement schedule. The vehicles are used by TOSs to carry supplies, signs and sometimes stranded patrons. Each will be equipped with ATMS technology for bus operations management.

The five tow tractors, with a total purchase price of \$207,560, will be used for moving buses and equipment at maintenance shops and at the Regional Rebuild Center. The tow tractors will replace five of the current fleet of 16 owned by Metro.