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Free Rides for LAPD Officers Among Board Committee Items for February

(Feb 14, 2006) Free rides for LAPD officers and a deal for new articulated buses are among the items before Board committees in February.

Item 11, Fare Exemption for LAPD.

LAPD officers in "Class A" dress uniforms with valid ID would ride the Metro Rail and Bus System free under a motion before the Executive Management and Audit Committee. Officers may not take seats from fare-paying customers and must fulfill their responsibilities as peace officers as circumstances may require.

The Board report notes that "one critical element of a comprehensive security system is the presence of uniformed law enforcement personnel...(who can)...serve as 'eyes and ears' on the transit system." The presence of additional uniformed personnel "will help to increase vigilance against a variety of potential terrorist threats and provide an enhanced sense of safety and security to our patrons and employees."

Item 24, Articulated Buses. A staff report to the Operations Committee says Metro has authorized North American Bus Industries (NABI) to begin production in April of the first of 94 new articulated buses. The Board gave the staff permission, last September, to exercise a \$79 million option for the new buses.

Exercising the option in April allows NABI to fill a gap in its production schedule. In exchange, the company will defer Metro payments for the new buses until July 1, 2006, and will provide Metro with two additional buses at no additional cost.

Item 6, Bicycle Strategic Plan. The Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion to approve two countywide bicycle planning documents. Metro's focus has shifted from arterial bikeways to a strategy of using bicycles with transit.

The Bicycle Transportation Strategic Plan is to be used by local agencies. Its goal is to link bicycles to transit and to integrate bicycle facilities into transportation projects. The Bicycle Transportation Account Compliance Document includes an inventory and mapping of existing and proposed bicycle facilities in the county.

BOARD CALENDAR

Wednesday, Feb. 15

- 1 p.m. – Public Hearing: Congestion Management Program
- 1 p.m. – Planning and Programming Committee
- 2:30 p.m. – Finance & Budget Committee

Thursday, Feb. 16

- 9 a.m. – Executive Management & Audit Committee
- 12 p.m. – Operations Committee

Thursday, Feb. 23

Board of Directors Meeting