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## Board OKs Grade Crossing Improvements, New Bus Division

(June 7, 2006) Metro Blue Line grade crossing improvements and construction of a new bus division across from the Gateway Building were among items approved by the Board of Directors in May.

**Item 23, Grade Crossing Improvements.** The Board approved a motion to add \$6.478 million to a multi-year project to upgrade deteriorated grade crossings on the Metro Blue Line with proven longer lasting low-maintenance, corrosion-inhibiting materials.

The first phase of the upgrade at grade crossings in the City of Long Beach is 90 percent complete. The second phase will upgrade the ballasted portions of track at 25 grade crossings. The cost of the project, which would continue through FY 2011, is estimated at \$10.6 million.

**Item 27, New Bus Division.** The Board approved a motion to build a new "Union Division" bus operations facility at Terminal 31, located across the intersection from the Gateway Building and adjacent to the Regional Rebuild Center.

Built on roughly six acres, the facility would house and operate a mixed fleet of some 200 CNG buses, including 60-foot articulated coaches. The cost of construction, which could begin in January 2008, is estimated at \$90 million, plus an estimated \$5 million if a cash counting facility is included.

The Board agreed to increase the current life-of-project budget from \$1 million to \$4.946 million to cover administration, environmental studies, project design and engineering and other costs.

**Item 26, Division 20 Railcar Wash.** The Board agreed to allocate \$15.4 million for construction of a new enclosed railcar wash facility at Metro Red Line Division 20. The current railcar wash facility and servicing platform were not designed to handle longer trains or the current volume of daily railcar washes required to keep the fleet at an acceptable level of cleanliness.

Enclosed in an all-weather structure to help reduce noise, the railcar wash facility will be capable of handling the present volume of railcars required for revenue service.

**Item 30, Divisions 5, 10, 18 Improvements.** Metro will modernize and expand the maintenance and transportation capabilities of Arthur Winston Division 5, Gateway Division 10 and South Bay Division 18. The Board approved a motion to establish a budget of \$18.3 million for the project.

The work at the three divisions includes replacement of outdated bus washing equipment, installation of bus exhaust systems, more storage space, maintenance shop upgrades, renovation of operator break areas



as well as maintenance and transportation administration spaces, improved shop and yard lighting and yard security.

**Item 6, SCRRA Budget.** The Board approved a \$47.7 million contribution of Proposition C, 10 percent sales tax funds to the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) for the Metrolink FY 2006-07 preliminary budget.

The sum includes approximately \$32.9 million for operations and \$14 million for rehabilitation and renovation. The Metrolink budget anticipates a 7.7 percent increase in ridership. A 5.5 percent fare increase is planned for July 1, 2006 to help offset rising operations costs, especially for diesel fuel.