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Board Committees to Consider Project Funding, Expo Line MOU, Transit Line Colors

(July 13, 2006) Funding for mass transit and county transportation projects, an agreement that will continue to move the Exposition Line project forward, and motions aimed at assigning new colors to four transit lines are among the items before Board committees in July.

Item 5, Transit Funds. The Planning and Programming Committee and the Finance and Budget Committee will consider a motion that, among other things, calls for approving \$1.8 billion in FY 2007 transit fund allocations for Metro operations, municipal transit operators and various jurisdictions. Federal, state and local requirements, as well as Board policies require the allocations.

Included among the allocations would be \$30.7 million for the Bus Service Improvement Program, Foothill Mitigation Program, the Transit Service Expansion Program and the Base Service Restructuring Program. A total of \$17.4 million would be allocated to the Municipal Operator Service Improvement Program and another \$6 million to meet an increase in operators' fuel costs.

Item 6, Call for Projects Funding. The Planning and Programming Committee will consider a motion to recertify \$171.89 million in FY 2006-07 funding to meet previous commitments for projects funded through the Call for Projects. Additionally, the Board will consider a series of actions that include lapsing funds from completed or cancelled projects and extending funding for a number of transportation projects.

Among the projects that will have their funds reprogrammed to later years are an intermodal rail access yard at the Port of Long Beach and a street improvement project on San Fernando Mission Boulevard in Los Angeles will have its funds extended.

Other projects receiving extensions include a State Route 710 access road project, improvements to the Fair Oaks corridor in South Pasadena, construction of Metro's proposed Ramirez Flyover, and the Interstate 5/Magic Mountain Parkway interchange in Santa Clarita.

Item 9, Expo Line Agreement. The Finance and Budget Committee

July Committee Meetings

Wednesday, July 19

- Planning and Programming, 1 p.m.
- Finance and Budget, 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 20

- Executive Management and Audit, 9 a.m.
- Construction, 10:30 a.m.
- Operations, 12 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

- Thursday, July 27, 9:30 a.m.

will consider approving a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Metro and the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority that would cover Metro's working relationship with the Authority through completion of the project to Santa Monica.

As required by state law, the MOU would cover funding, staffing, property and Metro's role in design review, construction and testing to ensure that the project will be compatible with the existing rail system. Under the agreement, Metro will purchase any necessary property, while the Construction Authority will manage the design/build contract, using its staff and some Metro staff to complete the project.

Items 15 and 16, Transit System Colors. The Executive Management and Audit Committee will consider a staff recommendation, Item 15, to adopt new colors and matching names for two Metro Rail lines and color designations for two express busways. A second motion by Director Bernard Parks, Item 16, concerns a proposed name and color for the Mid-City/Exposition Line.

The staff report recommends aqua as the color designation for the Exposition Line – the Metro Aqua Line – and purple as the color for the Wilshire/Western subway line – the Metro Purple Line. It recommends silver to designate the El Monte Busway and bronze as the color for the Harbor Transitway.

Parks' motion proposes adopting "Expo Line" as the official name and rose as the official color for the Mid-City/Exposition Light Rail Transit Project

The staff report notes that there are two Metro Red Lines – the Union Station-Wilshire/Western line and the Union Station-North Hollywood line. It recommends differentiating them by color and name to "reduce customer confusion and bring the map in line with industry standards."

The silver and bronze colors for the express busways, the staff report says, "will help increase awareness of these facilities...giving them an identity...(and) promoting connectivity and increasing ridership."

The heavily used Harbor Transitway and El Monte Busway would be included on the Go Metro map along with the Metro Rail lines and the Metro Orange Line to ensure that they are treated as an integral part of the county's transit network. Copies of the revised Go Metro map are attached to the Board report.