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The Division 3 Transportation Building will be reconstructed inside and out, adding life to the nearly 30-year-old structure. Presently, the building is U-shaped, with a two-story side, a single story in the middle and another two-story side. But the two-story sides aren't connected to each other directly – the planned upgrade will fix that. The employee parking structure will also be lengthened to create more spaces in the jammed parking lot.



TRANSPORTATION BUILDING • WESTSIDE VIEW

Illustrations courtesy of Maintenance Design Group

Division 3 to Get a Much-Deserved Facelift and Expansion

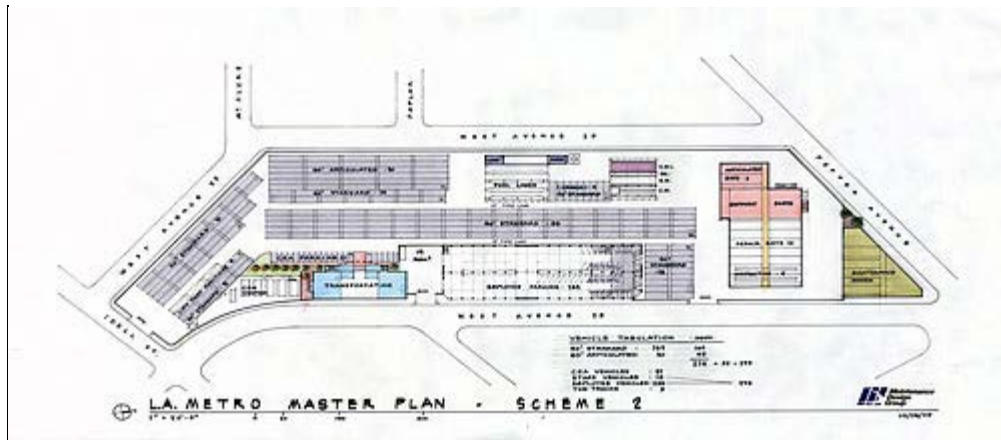
By JIMMY STROUP

(Dec. 13, 2007) Kicking off a three-year, \$19.8 million project, North Los Angeles Division 3 has started construction on a much-needed reconstruction project that will add space to maintenance and transportation areas.

The redesign will make use of space that's currently being used as outdoor storage and turn it into a Maintenance Annex that will store all that equipment and create a proper tire shop.

It will also add space to the existing Maintenance Building, give the Transportation Building a facelift and expand the employee parking structure.

"You're totally hemmed in by development. You've got the park on one side, mobile homes, apartments, residential homes on the others," said Tim Lindholm, director of Capital Projects for Facilities Operations. "It's a great location, but it's constrained, so there's no way we could ever expand it."



This artist's rendering of the planned changes at North Los Angeles Division 3 show how much will be added over the next three years. The green area on the right is the new Maintenance Annex, which will eliminate the need for outdoor storage and create a proper space for the tire shop. The pink area is the extension of the existing Maintenance Building, which will expand the parts shop and add two new bays outfitted for working on articulated buses. The blue area at the bottom is the Transportation Building, which is getting a facelift.

Metro knew more space needed to be created, but was unsure how to proceed. After hiring Maintenance Design Group to consult on the problem, the agency soon found itself with a plan to fix the crowded division.

"We've got a fleet of 220 buses out there now and it was only designed to have 200 on it," Lindholm said. "But because we're so over-capacity across the system, we just have no choice right now other than to pack them in."

The reconstruction will happen in four phases. The Maintenance Annex will be the first, followed by an expansion of the Maintenance Building to create a more sizeable parts shop. The Transportation Building will get its new façade in the third phase and the employee parking expansion will be the last.

"It's going to be a pretty good deal. We needed it: the division is stuffed," said newly promoted Division 3 Maintenance Manager Cliff Thorne. "For the next three years it's going to be constant change around here."

The construction should be finished sometime in 2010. Financing for the project was in large part grant money with the rest coming from the general capital program.