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Committee Items

Public Hearing on proposed FY10 budget tops May agendas; committees to consider budget document, conversion of CNG fueling facilities, renewing specialized transportation programs

Items for review:

- Planning and Programming Committee Item 5: Funding for Specialized Transportation Programs that serve people with disabilities, frail elderly, welfare participants, indigents, low-income transit riders, and people with immediate transportation needs.
- Finance and Budget Committee I tem 8: Consider a recommendation to issue refunding bonds to reduce debt service to achieve interest rate savings.
- Finance and Budget Committee Item 9: Public Hearing May 20 on Proposed FY10 Budget / Committee to consider budget document in advance of full Board review.
- Finance and Budget Committee Item 10: Approve the FY10 Sustainability Projects and Budget
- Construction Committee Item 21: Metro Orange Line Extension work order for railroad modification work and at-grade rail crossing safety enhancements at Lassen Street overcrossing.
- Operations Committee Item 24: Electrification conversion of CNG Fueling Facilities with funds made available through ARRA

(May 14, 2009) The Finance and Budget Committee will review the proposed FY10 budget and take public comments at a public hearing May 10. CEO Art Leahy has proposed a spending plan that is \$507 million or just under 15 percent more than the current Metro budget.

Metro directors will consider adopting the budget, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, at May 28 board meeting.

Item 5 on the Planning and Programming Committee agenda revisits MOUs with Shelter Partnership, Rider Relief Transportation and Immediate Needs Transportation programs, service providers that serve people with disabilities, frail elderly, welfare participants, indigents, low-income transit riders, and people with immediate transportation needs.

May Committee Meetings

Wednesday, May 20

1 p.m. - Planning and Programming

2:30 p.m. - Public Hearing FY10 Proposed Budget

2:30 p.m. - Finance and Budget

Thursday, May 21

CANCELLED - Measure R Project Delivery Committee 10:30 a.m. - Executive Management and Audit 12 noon – Construction

1 p.m. - Operations Committee

Thursday, May 28

9:30 a.m. - Regular Board Meeting

The recommendation to execute new MOUs is made to continue funding for five years beginning in FY10 without disruption or cancellations of services made available to those with limited transportation options.

Item 21 on the Construction Committee agenda is a recommendation to negotiate and execute work order agreements with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) for railroad modification work and atgrade rail crossing safety enhancements as part of the Metro Orange Line Extension project. SCRRA maintains and operates the railroad and shares tracks with Union Pacific and Amtrak. The accelerated schedule for the MOL Extension requires that the existing tracks and train control signal modifications along the Metro right-of-way be completed by November 2009, prior to the start of construction of the Lassen Street over-crossing. The grade-separation bridge over the operating railroad at Lassen Street is critical to the accelerated schedule to complete the Metro Orange Line Extension project by the summer of 2012.

Item 24 on the Operation Committee agenda would allow Metro to proceed with the electrification of CNG fueling facilities at three bus divisions with funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The project includes modifications to fully electrify compression of natural gas for the bus fleet by replacing gasburning engines with electric motors.

The first phase of the electrification conversion, required by new standards set by South Coast Air Quality Management District to decrease emissions from gas-fueled engines, will provide utility upgrades at Divisions 1, 5 and 7.

-- from Gayle Anderson

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