

January Board Action Update

Board OKs Buying 215 Buses, Non-Rev Vehicles, Extends Bus, Rail Service to Staples Center

(Jan. 27) The MTA Board approved the purchase of 215 low-floor, CNG buses at its January meeting, Thursday, approved a motion to extend Metro Rail and Metro Bus hours to serve the Staples Center, as well as motions to buy 185 non-revenue vehicles.

Here's an update of action on the Board's January "items to watch."

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| News Releases Jan. 27 |
| MTA BOARD APPROVES PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL LOW FLOOR COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS BUSES |

215 Low-Floor Buses, Item 9: APPROVED, with a provision requiring the staff to report back every 60 days on quality procedures to avoid problems and to facilitate corrections. The motion authorizes the CEO to exercise a \$75.5 million contract option with North American Bus Industries to purchase an additional 215 low-floor CNG buses, spare parts and equipment.

The coaches would seat 40 and would feature a simple, folding ramp for mobility-impaired passengers. Based on the manufacturer's preliminary schedule, the MTA could begin receiving the buses in February, 2001, at a rate of 40 buses per month.

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| News Releases Jan. 27 |
| MTA BOARD EXPANDS LATE NIGHT METRO RAIL AND BUS OPERATIONS TO SERVE STAPLES CENTER AND MUSIC CENTER PATRONS |

Staples Center, Music Center Service, Item 49: APPROVED. The Board approved a motion to extend the hours of Metro Rail and Metro Bus service to serve the Staples Center and the Music Center beginning in April.

The MTA plans to add one late evening trip on all branches of the Metro Rail system, with the exception of the westbound Metro Red Line. It also would add bus trips on Lines 30 and 81, which operate directly adjacent to the Staples Center. The service change is estimated to cost approximately \$160,000 from April through June.

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| metro.net Jan. 5 |
| MTA Expects to Buy 188 Vehicles |

Non-Revenue Vehicles, Items 12 and 13: APPROVED.

The Board approved the purchase of 185 non-revenue vehicles, including 50 sedans, 21 full-size cargo vans and 18 mini-pickup trucks for use as operator relief vehicles. The MTA plans to purchase a total of 188 non-revenue vehicles this year.

Photo Enforcement Cameras, Item 18: ACTION PENDING in February. The motion recommends the purchase of six more cameras for use in the Metro Blue Line photo enforcement program. According to a consultant's report, cameras installed at rail crossings have reduced the number of vehicle violations. The new cameras will be placed at intersections along Washington Boulevard to deter left-turn violators.

Because there is only a single source of procurement for the cameras, the Board must pass the motion on a two-thirds vote.

Valley Transit Zone Study, Item 44: APPROVED. An amendment aimed at providing protection to MTA employees affected by creation of a transit zone was referred to the Executive Management Committee. Mayor Richard Riordan's motion would direct the CEO to transfer \$140,000 from the Board's contingency account to the Greater San Fernando Valley Transportation Zone interim Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

The funds would pay a consultant to perform a "bottoms up" analysis of MTA divestiture data. The motion also would direct the MTA to work cooperatively with the JPA and the consultant to refine transit operations subsidy numbers.

Ethics Officer, Item 45: No report made. The Board was scheduled to discuss the appointment of a permanent head of the Board's Ethics and Lobby Registration office. The position, which has been vacant since the death of Ryan Nakagawa last year, has been filled on an interim basis by William Lowe.

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