



NEWS

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MTA SETS MAY 20 PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED AND BALANCED FISCAL YEAR 2000 BUDGET

The MTA Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on the Agency's proposed Fiscal Year 2000 budget, Thursday, May 20, beginning at 9 a.m. in the third floor Board Room, MTA headquarters, One Gateway Plaza, next to Union Station in downtown, Los Angeles.

The proposed \$2.536 billion budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, 1999 is balanced and it meets the region's transportation needs by calling for continued improvements in Metro Bus service, completing the subway and operating new Metro Rail service to Hollywood and North Hollywood, and funding a wide assortment of street and highway improvements.

The largest allocation of funding, more than \$900 million, is directed toward bus operations and for purchasing new buses and funding bus-related facilities next year. A total of 437 new buses are scheduled for delivery in the coming fiscal year, enabling the agency to retire aging buses and improve fleet reliability while also expanding service on the street. The MTA will also be hiring 310 more operators and mechanics in order to implement the improved bus service plan. The MTA next year will deploy an additional 115 buses bringing its peak hour fleet to 2,009 buses.

Complementing the Metro Bus system, Metro Rail ridership will surge next year following the June 12, 1999 opening of the Metro Red Line subway to Hollywood and the extension of service to North Hollywood.

The budget also includes planning monies to study rail and other alternatives to serve the Eastside, Mid-City and San Fernando Valley corridors.

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Other budget highlights include the allocation of \$747 million for regional transportation programs, more than \$521 million for rail construction, capital, and operations, subsidies for 16 sub-regional bus operators in the County, ADA accessibility programs for the disabled, funding for bikeways and pedestrian improvements, smart shuttles that fill the gaps between regular Metro Bus service in suburban areas and rideshare incentives.

At a special meeting scheduled Monday, May 24, starting at 1 p.m., the MTA Board will consider adopting the budget.

Copies of the draft budget can be reviewed during weekday business hours in the MTA library on the 15th floor at MTA headquarters or screened on the Internet at www.MTA.net.

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