



NEWS

December, 4 2002

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA MOVES CLOSER TO SELECTION OF NORTH-SOUTH BUS TRANSIT CORRIDOR IN SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, NARROWS CANDIDATE LIST TO FIVE

Following a series of community meetings and analysis, an MTA project team has narrowed the list of alternatives for a north-south high capacity bus transit corridor in the San Fernando Valley from 13 to five. The ongoing San Fernando Valley North-South Transit Corridor Study, which will be completed in early 2003, will result in the recommendation of a corridor(s) that would connect the north San Fernando Valley with both the San Fernando Valley East-West Metro Rapid Transitway and with Metro Rapid bus service on Ventura Boulevard.

The five potential north-south corridors that remain under study include (in alphabetical order): the rail right-of-way adjacent to Canoga Avenue, Lankershim Boulevard, Reseda Boulevard, Sepulveda Boulevard, and Van Nuys Boulevard.

"High capacity north-south bus service will be a vital piece of the transportation system in the San Fernando Valley," said Jim de la Loza, MTA executive officer for countywide planning. "Metro Rapid service on Ventura Boulevard is hugely successful and we expect the east-west Metro Rapid transitway to draw large numbers of passengers, as well. A north-south corridor will be the right complement for these two lines."

In addition to public input, the study is factoring in employment density, population density, areas of high transit usage, land use condition and population under 15 and over 64.

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To improve bus speeds at congestion points, the corridor may include dedicated bus lanes, either all day or during peak hours only. This may also include service beyond the limits of the corridor, such as enhanced transit service over the Sepulveda Pass to Wilshire Boulevard.

The recommended project also may incorporate the following list of potential enhancements: enhanced bus stops with canopies, lighting, ticket machines, maps, "next trip" displays, transit signal priority, park and ride facilities, landscaping, and pedestrian and bike access improvements.

Upon approval of a project by the MTA Board in early 2003, funding for implementation would include \$100 million earmarked in Governor Gray Davis' Transportation Congestion Relief Program, approved by the state legislature two years ago, supplemented by local sales tax dollars.

In addition to meeting with the community stakeholders on an ongoing basis, the study's project team will conduct another series of open houses in December at the following times and locations:

Tuesday, December 10, 2002, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Sherman Oaks Women's Club
4808 Kester Avenue
Sherman Oaks

Wednesday, December 11, 2002, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Pierce College Campus Center
6201 Winnetka Avenue
Woodland Hills

Thursday, December 12, 2002, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Recreation Park
208 Park Avenue
City of San Fernando

More...

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Additional information on the San Fernando Valley North-South Transit Corridor Study and on upcoming meetings can be obtained by calling the study's information line at (818)701-2855 or by visiting MTA's website at www.mta.net and clicking on "Programs and Projects."

Anyone who is unable to attend any of the public meetings and wishes to comment can send an e-mail to martinr@mta.net or submit their comments by mail to:

Countywide Planning & Development
M/S 99-22-9
Attention: SFV North/South MIS Study
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

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December 9, 2002

MEDIA ADVISORY

RIDES ON VERMONT, SO. BROADWAY METRO RAPID LINES FREE DURING FIRST TWO DAYS OF SERVICE

L.A. MAYOR HAHN, MTA AND LADOT OFFICIALS TO MAKE FINAL TEST RUN ON FIRST METRO RAPID BUS EXPANSION LINES

WHAT: L.A. Mayor James Hahn and officials from MTA and the City of Los Angeles will take a final test ride on one of two new Metro Rapid bus lines which will begin service on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2002. Line 754 on Vermont Ave. and Line 745 on South Broadway are the first of 24 expansion lines in the Metro Rapid system which will be phased-in by 2008. The 11.9-mile Vermont Metro Rapid will operate from Hollywood Boulevard to the Metro Green Line. The 10.5-mile South Broadway Metro Rapid will operate from Union Station to the Metro Green Line. *Rides on the two new lines will be free on the first two days of service, Dec. 15 and 16.*

Since its inauguration on the Wilshire/Whittier and Ventura Boulevard corridors in June 2000, Metro Rapid has succeeded in increasing bus ridership on those corridors by nearly 40 percent. Metro Rapid also has reduced travel times by nearly 30 percent due to several system features including bus signal priority, fewer stops and low-floor buses.

WHO: James Hahn, Los Angeles Mayor, MTA Board Member
Roger Snoble, MTA CEO
Jim de la Loza, MTA executive officer, countywide planning
Dana Coffey, general manager, MTA South Bay Sector
Rich Rogers, general manager, MTA Gateway Cities Sector
Rex Gephart, MTA director, regional transit planning
Wayne Tanda, LADOT general manager

WHEN: 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 11, 2002

WHERE: Vermont Ave./Wilshire Blvd., one half block north of Wilshire, east side of Vermont Thomas Guide 634 A-2

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