



March 24, 2005

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors Approves West Los Angeles Transportation Facility; Certifies Final Environmental Impact Report

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors today approved a new Metro bus transportation operating facility planned for West Los Angeles, certifying the project's final environmental impact report (EIR).

The West Los Angeles Transportation Facility will be a modern state-of-the-art Metro Bus operating facility designed for up to 150 clean-fuel, compressed natural gas (CNG) buses that will serve the community as well as other parts of Central and West Los Angeles.

"This will be the first new bus facility we've built in 25 years and replaces an obsolete facility in Venice," said Metro's Deputy CEO John Catoe. "It will allow us to better serve our customers from a modern, more centrally located facility."

The location for the new transportation center is a 4.7-acre site in an industrial area on Jefferson Boulevard between Rodeo Road and National Avenue in West Los Angeles. All access to the center will be from Jefferson with the bulk of the traffic in and out of the facility occurring well before and after rush hours to avoid traffic congestion in the area. The facility will replace Metro's Venice bus operating division.

The final EIR evaluated a wide range of possible impacts of the proposed facility, which included traffic, noise and air quality issues. No significant unmitigatable impacts were found. Extensive public outreach and community meetings have been held in the community and responses to concerns have been included into the final document.

Pending approval by the Los Angeles City Council, today's Board action sets the stage for construction to begin on the new facility this summer with completion expected in the summer 2006. The cost of the new transportation facility is estimated at \$20.9 million, plus the cost of a CNG fueling station.

METRO-042

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