

September 17, 2008
Finance and Budget Committee

MOTION

DIRECTORS ANTONOVICH AND NAJARIAN

The Metrolink crash last Friday which claimed the life of over 25 people, injured dozens more and has devastated families was caused by a head-on collision by the Metrolink and Union Pacific trains that shared the same track. Speculation surrounding this crash has indicated that certain technologies might have helped prevent this accident.

The Metrolink crash near Glendale that occurred several years ago was caused by an automobile that was able to access the tracks directly and park on the rails.

Both of these tragic incidents highlight the need for Los Angeles County to undertake a comprehensive assessment of our rail system in conjunction with other relevant agencies and the Railroad companies and produce a fully prioritized Los Angeles County Commuter/Freight Rail Master Plan that will serve as a blueprint for Metro's advocacy efforts and prioritization of rail track and safety upgrades.

With freight movement through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach expected to triple in the next 30 years, and with mobility expected to decrease in Los Angeles County over that same timeframe, the increased demand on our rail network for moving freight and passengers will only lead to more potential tragedies such as the September 12, 2008, Metrolink accident.

WE MOVE that the Metro Board of Directors instructs the CEO to do the following:

- (1) Return to the Board in October with a proposal to perform a comprehensive Los Angeles County Commuter/Freight Rail Master Plan that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Identification and evaluation of technological improvements that could be upgraded or installed including positive control, upgraded signals, communication devices between trains, cameras, etc.
 - b. Identify and evaluate the need for rail infrastructure upgrades that include but are not limited to grade separations, track straightening, tunnel improvements, adding new track and improved highway/rail crossing intersections.
 - c. Identify and evaluate other safety improvements that would not be considered under parts 1a and 1b.
- (2) Develop a state and federal advocacy plan that reflects the findings of the Los Angeles County Commuter/Freight Rail Master Plan (Plan) and that will advocate for increased funding, pilot programs and other appropriate resources to bring more safety improvements and rail infrastructure improvements to Los Angeles County.
- (3) Create a budget and identify funding in the FY09 budget to support the scope of work in support of the proposals in parts 1 and 2.
- (4) Reach out to other appropriate agencies and railroad companies to receive input on this Plan and to coordinate advocacy efforts.
- (5) Send a 13-signature letter to our State and Congressional delegation informing them of the Board's desire to create this Master Plan and to ask for their support in securing more funding from the State of California and the Federal Government for rail improvements in Los Angeles County.