



MTA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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Volume 2

MTA UPDATE

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

TO: LOS ANGELES COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

FROM: GISELLE ACEVEDO-FRANCO 

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MTA RELATED ISSUES

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
90012

The MTA's Office of Government Relations wants to inform you of the following actions for the month of July.

213.922.6000

FEDERAL ISSUES

- Both the House and Senate recommend appropriations funding for MTA. On July 23 the House passed its version of the FY 1998 spending bill by a vote of 424-5. The House legislation includes \$76 million for MOS-3 and \$10 million for ATTB development. Report language accompanying the house bill directs \$24 million to be set aside for the Eastside extension. Additionally, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) General Accounting (GAO) the Department of Transportation Inspector General (DOT IG) and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees must approve MTA's Recovery Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan.
- On July 30 the Senate passed its version of the FY 1998 bill by a vote of 98-1. The Senate bill provides \$51 million for MOS-3 and \$2 million for the ATTB program. Senate MOS-3 report language requires FTA, GAO and DOT IG approval for the Recovery Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan, but does not include an Eastside extension set aside.
- A House-Senate conference committee will meet in September to reconcile the differences between the two versions of the FY 1998 Transportation Appropriations legislation.

STATE ISSUES

AB 1143 Becomes Law

- On July 28, Governor Pete Wilson signed into law AB 1143 (Murray) legislation which eliminates positions for alternates on the MTA Board of Directors, provides for a four-year term of office for the MTA CEO and directs the MTA CEO to

approve all construction contracts. The provisions of this bill will become effective on January 1, 1998.

MTA Board Continues to Oppose SB 567

- The MTA Board continues to oppose SB 567 (Polanco) legislation to radically restructure the Board. The bill would provide that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors would appoint one non-elected representative who resides in an unincorporated area of the county to represent the county on the MTA Board rather than the current representation of all five county supervisors. SB 567 would also direct that the mayor of the City of Los Angeles would have four non-elected appointees to the MTA Board. The four corridor elected officials representing the smaller cities in the county and selected by the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee would remain on the MTA Board of Directors. SB 567 is scheduled to be considered by the Assembly Committee on Appropriations on August 20.

LOCAL ISSUES

\$200 Million City of LA/MTA Agreement Signed

- The \$200 million agreement for the City's contribution to MOS-3 was signed by the City of LA and the MTA on July 24. In addition to the rail provision the agreement includes a strong bus improvement plan.

MTA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Summarized below are highlights of items discussed at the July 31, 1997, MTA Board of Directors meeting.

Riordan Chair, Burke First Vice Chair and Cragin Second Vice Chair of the MTA Board of Directors

Mayor Richard Riordan began his term as the new MTA Board Chair this month. Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke is the First Vice Chair and James Cragin was elected to serve as the Second Vice Chair of the MTA Board of Directors

Blue Line to Pasadena

Item 25 (EMC 5) - The MTA Board voted to direct staff to provide information on MTA recruitment, promotion and layoff procedures. The staff will work with the Board to review all non-represented personnel actions that have occurred since January 1, 1997. All potential personnel actions dating from July 1, 1997, also will be reviewed. The Board also voted to delay merit raises for non-represented employees and to place a freeze on hiring in the "M" classification and above. The CEO will make presentations at the Executive Management Committee meeting on August 12 and at the MTA Board Meeting, August 28.

MTA Vendor Commission Reduction

Item 35 - The MTA Board denied action on the staff recommendation to reduce the commission rate for vendors who sell fare media (i.e., passes and tokens). The action was recommended to bring the MTA's overall commission cost in line with other major transit operators. MTA currently pays over 6% the industry is less than 2%, a difference of \$2.5-\$3 million annually. Strong opposition to the recommended reduction of the commissions was shared at the Board meeting. The Board of Directors may reconsider this issue in August.

Construction Management Services on the Metro Red Line, East Side Extension

Item 38 - This item was pulled pending the outcome of the legal challenge of the procurement.

For more information on Local Issues please call Audrey Noda at 213/922-2238, on State Issues call Claudette Moody 213/922-2237 and on Federal Issues call Ron Stone 213/922-2232.