



**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
AUGUST 17, 2006**

SUBJECT: FARE EXEMPTION FOR UNIFORMED LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL

**ACTION: ADOPT POLICY PERMITTING SWORN UNIFORMED PERSONNEL TO
RIDE METRO TRANSIT SYSTEM UNDER FARE EXEMPTION**

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Sworn Uniformed Fare Exemption Policy to permit uniformed law enforcement personnel from police agencies throughout the county that meet certain criteria to ride the Metro transit system under fare exemption.

ISSUE

At its February 2006 meeting, the Executive Management and Audit Committee approved a recommendation to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) addressing conditions under which these officers could receive fare exemption. Specifically, the MOU was to contain conditions under which participating officers in full uniform, with valid identification and meeting certain other requirements, could ride the Metro transit system on a fare-exempt basis.

At the close of the Board meeting, Director Fasana requested that staff pursue the development of a countywide fare exemption policy. This recommendation addresses his request.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Implementation of this policy will encourage municipal sworn uniformed law enforcement officers to ride the Metro system at no cost. While a minor loss of fare revenue is to be expected, the increased presence of uniformed officers is expected to offset this loss by providing a heightened sense of security for patrons and employees. Further, additional uniformed law enforcement personnel will be on hand to augment Los Angeles Sheriff's Department deputies and security assistants should law enforcement be necessary.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

An alternative is to recommend against the initiation of a fare exemption program. This option is not recommended because it would result in less law enforcement visibility on the

transit system than would occur with the program. Staff also considered recommending a pilot program but believes that the plan is sufficiently sound that a permanent fare exemption program can be recommended.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Fare revenues in the FY07 budget are calculated by multiplying the number of boardings times the average fare per boarding of \$.59. If these sworn, uniformed personnel are currently riding Metro and paying a fare then we will experience a reduction in fare revenue because they will no longer pay fares. The impact although difficult to quantify, is anticipated to be minimal and will be more than offset by the benefits derived from the presence of uniformed officers on the system and providing law enforcement services when appropriate.

DISCUSSION

Fare exemption for sworn personnel is viewed by Metro, as well as other transit agencies including Metrolink and Foothill Transit, as a useful tool in heightening a security presence on the transit system. At a time when terrorism continues as a major concern, law enforcement presence helps to increase vigilance, minimize criminal activity and ensure the safety and security of transit patrons and employees.

Metro's predecessor, the Southern California Rapid Transit District, had a policy of allowing police officers to ride its buses without paying a fare. However, that policy was not officially adopted by Metro. This item is a recommendation to officially adopt a Metro policy for fare exemption for uniformed municipal law enforcement personnel on a county-wide basis. The staff recommendation adopted by the Board earlier this year was limited to LAPD and provided for the development of an MOU between Metro and LAPD. However, upon further consideration, and in light of the proposed county-wide expansion of the policy, it has been determined that adoption by the Board of the proposed policy is sufficient authority, and MOUs between Metro and the various county-wide law enforcement agencies are not necessary.

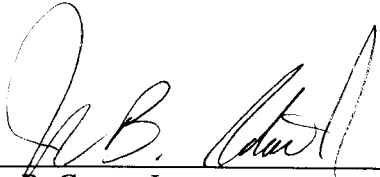
NEXT STEPS

Staff will monitor the progress of the program for effectiveness and recommend adjustments as may appear necessary.

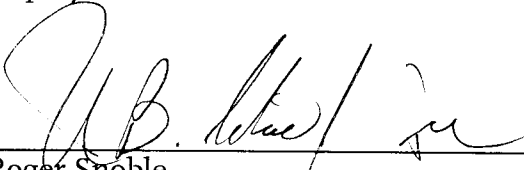
ATTACHMENT(S)

- A. Fare Exemption Policy: Sworn Uniformed Law Enforcement Officers

Prepared by: Carolyn Flowers, Executive Officer, Operations Administration



John B. Catoe, Jr.
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



Roger Snoble
Chief Executive Officer

**FARE EXEMPTION POLICY:
SWORN UNIFORMED LSW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

It will be the policy of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to permit sworn and uniformed law enforcement officers from all municipal police agencies operating within Los Angeles County to ride the Metro transit system under fare exemption if officers meet the following conditions:

- Wear full uniforms (short- or long-sleeve) with Sam Browne equipment belt (no raid jackets, specialized uniforms or the like);
- Present department-issued photo identification to the fare inspector (Security Assistant) or operator upon request; and
- Stand when the train or bus is crowded or when otherwise asked to do so by Metro staff.

If participating officers are found to be out of compliance with this policy, they will be asked to pay the appropriate fare.

Implementation of this policy will help to encourage municipal sworn and uniformed law enforcement officers to ride the Metro system at no cost. Additionally, uniformed law enforcement personnel will augment Los Angeles Sheriff's Department deputies and security assistants (fare inspectors) should law enforcement action be required. The presence of these additional uniformed law enforcement officers traveling through Metro system is expected to provide a deterrent effect upon those who might otherwise be inclined to commit criminal acts while using the Metro system. Moreover, their nearby presence may potentially speed the response time in the event a criminal act is committed.

7/2006