


July 26, 2002




Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
90012-2952

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

FROM: JAMES L. de la LOZA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER 
COUNTYWIDE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY REPORT ON REGIONAL EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

ISSUE

This report is prepared in response to the October 1997 Board action that requires the CEO or designee to report quarterly to the Board on the status and progress of regional external organizations on which MTA is represented by Board members or elected-official appointees. Board members may request that any item described in this report be brought forward for discussion at a future Board meeting.

DISCUSSION

Attachment A is the Quarterly Report on Regional External Organizations: Fiscal Year 2001-02 4th Quarter ending June 30, 2002. As a regional transportation planning agency, MTA participates on the boards of seven organizations.

The following report summarizes the roles and responsibilities, status, and progress of each organization.

Attachment

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Attachment A: QUARTERLY REPORT ON REGIONAL EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

4th Quarter, ending June 30, 2002

ORGANIZATION: 1) Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA)		LEAD MTA STAFF: Nalini Ahuja Patricia Chen	PHONE NUMBER: (213) 922-3088 (213) 922-3041
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The Joint Powers Authority is made up of MTA, OCTA, RCTC, SANBAG, and VCTC. Mission: Plan, construct, and administer the operation of regional passenger rail lines (known as "Metrolink").		MTA REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES: Michael Antonovich/.....Robert Bartlett Larry Zarian/.....Beatrice Proo Don Knabe/.....John Fasana Hal Bernson/.....Francine Oschin	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
Placentia Collision	On April 23, 2002 a Metrolink Inland Empire/Orange County Line train was struck by a Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) freight train. The incident occurred on BNSF tracks in Placentia. There were over two hundred injured Metrolink passengers, with two passenger fatalities. This is the first time a Metrolink incident has resulted in passenger fatalities. The collision is under investigation by the NTSB.	Metrolink has extended help and concern to passengers and loved ones, and is cooperating with the NTSB investigation.	NA
Presentation by Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) regarding On-Time Performance	At the April 26 th SCRRA Board Meeting, the UPRR Los Angeles Service Area Superintendent addressed the Board regarding UPRR's recent efforts and plans to improve the operating procedures, Capital infrastructure, and administrative focus in order to ensure on-time performance. SCRRA staff commented that these efforts have resulted in significant improvement, with the Riverside Line currently operating over 96% on-time. A Notice of Non-Performance had been sent to UPRR in March 2002. Under the terms of the agreement governing Metrolink operations on the Riverside Line, UPRR had 30 days to improve on-time performance or SCRRA could move the issue to arbitration. There is still some concern regarding whether the operating procedures and administrative focus can be maintained and will continue to suffice as time goes by and as the volume of freight continues to grow.	SCRRA staff will continue to monitor on-time performance on the UPRR and recommend further action if necessary.	S
Opening of the "91 Line" serving Riverside, Fullerton, and Los Angeles.	A Grand Opening was held at L.A. Union Station on May 6, 2002 for the 91 Line. The new service follows the same alignment as the Orange County Line between L.A. Union Station and Fullerton. The service continues from Fullerton to Riverside via the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) alignment through North Orange County and Western Riverside County.	Average weekday ridership for the 91 Line is currently in excess of 1,000, topping forecasts by over 200 riders per day. SCRRA and member agency staffs are exploring options to further expand service on the line and accommodate continued ridership growth.	S

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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The Joint Powers Authority is made up of MTA, OCTA, RCTC, SANBAG, and VCTC. Mission: Plan, construct, and administer the operation of regional passenger rail lines (known as "Metrolink").		MTA REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES: Michael Antonovich/.....Robert Bartlett Larry Zarian/.....Beatrice Proo Don Knabe/.....John Fasana Hal Bernson/.....Francine Oschin	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
Amtrak Financial Status	Amtrak engineers, conductors and dispatchers operate Metrolink services through a contract between Amtrak and SCRRA. Negotiations have continued for several months between Amtrak and the federal government regarding funding for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2003 and financial underwriting to allow continued Amtrak operations through FFY 2002. Amtrak President David Gunn has indicated that if Amtrak does not receive timely financial assistance from the federal government, Amtrak would terminate operation of all its services. He confirmed that this would apply to services provided to other entities at their cost, such as Metrolink and state-funded Amtrak Intercity service in California.	Congress has agreed to extend a Rail Infrastructure Fund (RIF) loan that should allow Amtrak operations through mid August. SCRRA staff is exploring alternative actions to allow continued operation of the Metrolink system in the event of an Amtrak shutdown.	NA
Continued Operation of Santa Clarita Metrolink Station	The City of Santa Clarita is considering using the power of eminent domain to purchase the property underlying the Santa Clarita Station. This follows a series of negotiations between the City of Santa Clarita and the owner-developer of the property regarding the development of the surrounding parcels, and the continued use of the station for Metrolink service.	The City of Santa Clarita has scheduled a public hearing and a vote on a proposed condemnation resolution for the July 17 th City Council Meeting. If approved, the actions will allow the City to take further steps to purchase the site and ensure its continued operation as a Metrolink station.	S

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Attachment A: QUARTERLY REPORT ON REGIONAL EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

4th Quarter, ending June 30, 2002

ORGANIZATION:		LEAD MTA STAFF:	
2) Los Angeles-San Diego Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN)		Nalini Ahuja Patricia Chen	
		PHONE NUMBERS:	
		(213) 922-3088 (213) 922-3041	
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:		MTA REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES:	
LOSSAN is a Joint Powers Authority composed of OCTA, MTA, NTCB, SANDAG, SBCAG, SLOCOG, VCTC, and Caltrans (with SCAG as an ex-officio member). The organization's mission is to provide efficient, effective inter-city rail services in the Los Angeles-San Diego Rail corridor. Specifics: Coordinate capital improvements along the corridor; develop a capital program to secure funding from state and federal governments; coordinate and conduct a legislative and lobbying program at the federal and state level for LOSSAN corridor issues, especially those that give voice to funding needs and funding inequities.		Beatrice Proo Jacki Bacharach	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
LOSSAN Advocacy Strategy	At its meeting on May 17, 2002 the LOSSAN Board adopted a strategy to pursue its goals of increased service and improved safety and security in the corridor. The strategy will include LOSSAN Board activities such as letters and resolutions of support for legislation benefiting the corridor, and potential advocacy visits to Sacramento and Washington. The strategy is also anticipated to focus extensively on coordinated actions by the member agencies in support of LOSSAN projects and programs. This strategy will ensure that LOSSAN projects are part of an integrated, cohesive program throughout Southern California, and are brought to the attention of officials in Washington repeatedly, by each member agency. This approach also makes it unnecessary for LOSSAN to levy dues and make a financial outlay for additional lobbying services.	LOSSAN member agency staff is currently developing a web site for deployment in the near future, where members of the public may obtain information about current passenger services and efforts to improve passenger service throughout the rail corridor.	S

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ORGANIZATION: 3) Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC)		LEAD MTA STAFF: PHONE NUMBER:	Douglas Kim (213) 922-2817
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: MSRC is an independent entity created by State law, which allocates about \$12 million annually in AB 2766 discretionary funds from a portion of an annual \$4 DMV surcharge. This revenue is used to fund programs that reduce air pollution from motor vehicles. MTA represents its interests and those of LA County jurisdictions. The MSRC is composed of eight member agencies: MTA, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and Southern California Rideshare (regional rideshare agency).		MTA REPRESENTATIVE/ALTERNATE: Beatrice LaPisto-Kirtley / Margaret Clark	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
FY 2002-03 Annual Work Program	On May 23, 2002, the MSRC approved a \$14.9 million Work Program in concept that earmarks funding for clean fuel vehicles and transportation control measures. This includes the following programs: Regional Vanpool Program (\$450,000), Rideshare Thursday Public Outreach campaign (\$800,000), Local Government Match Program for Clean Fuel Vehicles (\$2,000,000), On/Off-Road Heavy-Duty Vehicles (\$3,250,000), Alternative Fuel Transit Buses (\$2,450,000), Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Program (\$1,250,000), CNG School Bus Program (\$1,250,000), Diesel Particulate Trap Retrofit Program (\$500,000), Light-Duty Vehicle Repair Program (\$500,000), and Expanded Freeway Service Patrols (\$1,500,000).	On July 25, 2002, the MSRC will approve RFPs that solicit funding proposals from MTA and other entities. Funding for projects would be awarded in November 2002.	N
Clean Air Grants	On June 7, MTA was awarded \$1,040,000 for the purchase of 130 CNG-fueled transit buses by the AQMD.	Staff will execute a contract with the AQMD to co-fund purchase of these 130 buses.	N

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4th Quarter, ending June 30, 2002

ORGANIZATION: 4) Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA)		LEAD MTA STAFF: PHONE NUMBER:	Michelle E. Smith (213) 922-3057
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: ACTA is responsible for managing the design and construction of the Alameda Corridor program. ACTA is composed of the following member agencies: MTA, City of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach, Port of Long Beach, and Port of Los Angeles.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES: Yvonne Burke Don Knabe	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
Alameda Corridor Program – Overall Status	The grand opening for the Alameda Corridor was held on April 12, 2002. Revenue operations for the Alameda Corridor were put into service on April 15, 2002. Through allocations in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Call for Projects and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the MTA fulfilled its commitment of \$358.8 million towards completion of the Alameda Corridor Program.	NA	NA

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ORGANIZATION: 5) Regional Transportation Agencies Coalition (RTAC)		LEAD MTA STAFF: PHONE:	Douglas Kim -- General RTAC Cosette Stark -- Rideshare/SB 836 (213) 922-2817/(213) 922-2822
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: RTAC provides member agencies with a forum to discuss legislative mandates of mutual interest as set forth in AB 1246. RTAC addresses issues, facilitates identification, coordination, and resolution of transportation and air quality issues affecting member agencies. This includes SB 836, 1998 legislation which provided \$3 million for implementation of MTA's Regional Rideshare Program (i.e., Rideshare 2000 and Club Metro). RTAC is composed of six voting members: MTA, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and Caltrans. The five Southern California air districts, Imperial Valley Association of Governments, and Ventura County Transportation Commission are ex-officio members.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES: Beatrice Proo	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
Meeting Schedule	There were no meetings in the 4 th Quarter of FY 2001-02.	The RTAC is scheduled to meet on July 18, 2002.	N
Interagency Consultation Process	After reaching consensus with the Southern California CEO Group, SCAG is developing a proposal to transition the interagency consultation process from the RTAC to a new forum. On June 18, 2002, Roger Snoble sent a letter to SCAG reaffirming the consensus process that must be used to transition to a new process for discussing and resolving interagency planning issues.	On July 18, 2002, the RTAC will be updated on the status of discussions between SCAG and the transportation commissions on the transition to a new AB 1246 consultation process.	N

7/15/02 *S = Support, O = Oppose, N = Neutral, NA = Not Applicable, and U = Undecided

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ORGANIZATION: 6) SCAG Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC)		LEAD MTA STAFF: Douglas Kim PHONE NUMBER: (213) 922-2817	
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: TCC is a policy advisory committee to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Council on all regional matters pertaining to the movement of goods and people. TCC reviews the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and makes recommendations to the Regional Council. The TCC also provides recommendations on state and federal legislative proposals and administrative guidelines affecting planning and capital improvement programs for transportation and utilities.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES: John Fasana (SGVCOG) Hal Bernson (City of Los Angeles) Pam O'Connor (City of Santa Monica) Beatrice Proo (City of Pico Rivera) MTA Seat: Vacant	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
2001 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)	On June 17, 2002, SCAG released its Draft RTIP for a 30-day review and comment period. However, SCAG has questioned whether the MTA's funding for rideshare programs in the Draft RTIP is consistent with regional obligations in the 2001 RTP. Staff has determined that its rideshare program investments are adequate and is working with SCAG to resolve their concerns. Adoption of the RTIP is needed by October 6, 2002 to ensure continued federal funding of transportation projects.	Staff will continue to work with SCAG to resolve their concerns. Adoption of the RTIP is needed by October 6, 2002 to ensure continued federal funding of transportation projects.	N
2004 Regional Transportation Plan	SCAG Task Forces began to meet to identify and address key challenges and issues.	SCAG task forces will continue to meet in 2002 to develop recommendations that will feed into the Draft 2004 RTP	N

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ORGANIZATION: 7. Advanced Transit Vehicle Consortium (formerly Fuel Cell Buyers Consortium)		LEAD MTA STAFF: Eck Chaiboonma PHONE NUMBER: (213) 922-3014	
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: 1. Improving bus service through the Fuel Cell-Powered ATTB, 2. Improving air quality through zero to low-emission Fuel Cell-Powered ATTB, 3. Capturing economic benefits from fuel cell manufacturing, 4. Creating new high technology jobs		MTA REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES: Frank Roberts (Alternate: Vacant)	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position *
ATVC Board Meeting	The following actions were approved at the April 19, 2002 meeting: 1) Approved minutes of Board Meeting held February 6, 2002. 2) Adopt third and fourth amendments to Bylaws to implement actions taken by the Board to: a) change the corporate name to Advanced Transit Vehicle Consortium, and b) change the composition of the Board of Directors. 3) Receive oral briefing on evaluation of Advanced Transit Vehicles for Bus Rapid Transit in France.	Send delegates to visit bus manufacturers in France, England, and Belgium to evaluate the availability and readiness of the 60-foot articulated CNG buses	N

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