



May 18, 2001

Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
90012-2952

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**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.

BACKGROUND

Attachment A is the Quarterly Report on Regional External Organizations: Fiscal Year 2000-01 3rd Quarter ending March 31, 2001. As a regional transportation agency, MTA participates on the boards of nine organizations.

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

Prepared by: Douglas Kim, Air Quality Program Manager
Countywide Planning

Attachments

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Attachment A: QUARTERLY REPORT ON REGIONAL EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS
3rd Quarter: ending March 31, 2001

ORGANIZATION: 1) Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA)		LEAD MTA STAFF: Carol Inge Patricia Chen PHONE NUMBER: (213) 922-3056 (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/.....Francine Oschin Richard Riordan/.....Nathan Brogin Hal Bernson/.....James Ledford	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
Funding for Rolling Stock	In 1998, SCRRA applied for state Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) grant funding for and requested a manufacturing contract option for commuter rail coaches to meet fleet need as projected at that time. Since 1998, the state has approved the ITIP funding, and ridership has grown such that fleet needs are outpacing original projections. SCRRA staff has worked with MTA and other member agencies to identify funding to match the state ITIP grant, and also purchase up to three more locomotives or coaches depending on availability. In February, MTA's Board approved \$596,950 to match the ITIP grant to purchase five (5) cab coaches, and additional funding of up to \$1,920,600 for additional high priority rolling stock needs. Funds would come from the surplus FY 1999-2000 subsidy to SCRRA identified in their year-end reconciliation statement.	The cab coaches may be ordered within six months once Metrolink resolves some issues with the manufacturer.	S
SCRRA FY 2002 Budget	MTA worked with SCRRA and other member agency staff to develop the SCRRA FY 2002 Budget.	MTA staff will request MTA Board approval of the SCRRA Budget in May, 2001.	NA

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ORGANIZATION: 2) Southern California Intercity Rail Group Joint Powers Board (SCIRG)		LEAD MTA STAFF: Patricia Chen PHONE NUMBER: (213) 922-3041
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Joint Powers Authority made up of RCTC, SANDAG, SLOCOG, SBCAG, and SCAG. VISION: The Southern California Intercity Rail Group will work to advance an integrated and cost-effective network of all Southern California rail services, including Amtrak, Metrolink, Coaster, and future high speed rail services with the goal of optimizing and expanding the availability of travel by rail throughout the region.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES: Vacant
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions
Termination of SCIRG	MTA staff has been attending meetings to discuss and implement the dissolution of SCIRG, and possible future forums of communication between Southern California passenger rail planning, funding, and operating agencies.	Finalization of documents to dissolve SCIRG is anticipated by May 2001. MTA staff will continue to monitor intercity rail issues and pursue cooperative funding and service improvement efforts with other Southern California passenger rail operations, planning, and programming agencies, either informally or through an alternative cooperative structure.
		MTA Position* S

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ORGANIZATION: 3) Los Angeles-San Diego Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN)		LEAD MTA STAFF: PHONE NUMBER:	Patricia Chen (213) 922-3041
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: LOSSAN is a Joint Powers Authority composed of OCTA, MTA, NCTD and Caltrans (Ex officio members include: SCAG, SANDAG, VCTC, and SB-CAPC). The organization's mission is the following: Provide efficient, effective inter-city rail services in the Los Angeles-San Diego Rail corridor. Specifics: Coordinate capital improvements along the corridor; develop capital program to secure funding from the State and the 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.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES: Vacant Vacant	
Issue	<i>Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)</i>	<i>6-Month Projected Actions</i>	<i>MTA Position*</i>
MTA Representation on LOSSAN	NA	LOSSAN may apply for or administer one or more federal grants to improve passenger rail infrastructure within Los Angeles County in the near future. MTA may need to appoint a representative to take action on grant documents.	NA

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ORGANIZATION: 4) Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC)		LEAD MTA STAFF: Douglas Kim PHONE NUMBER: (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 REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES: Beatrice LaPisto-Kirtley (Alternate: Margaret Clark)	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
FY 2000-01 Annual Work Program	In February, the MSRC funded one additional project to close out the slate of programs funded under its FY 2000-01 Work Program. The process of negotiating contracts with successful bidders was started.	Contracts with successful bidders will be negotiated and executed in early 2001.	NA
MTA Proposal for MSRC Funding	MTA staff worked with MSRC staff to execute a contract for its \$300,000 award to expand its current Rideshare Rewards incentive program for first-time carpoolers and transit users.	MTA will work with MSRC staff to execute contracts in early 2001.	NA
FY 2001-02 Annual Work Program	In February 2001, the MSRC held a half-day workshop and identified funding priorities for the next annual Work Program. Subcommittees of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are developing the general parameters of a draft work program based on these priorities.	The MSRC TAC subcommittees will develop detailed recommendations for review and approval by the MSRC in June. Ultimately, over \$13 million in clean air funds will be awarded by November 2001.	NA
MSRC Membership	On March 14, 2001, MTA designated Margaret Clark, Council Member from Rosemead, to serve as MTA's alternate on the MSRC.	None	NA

*S = Support, O = Oppose, N = Neutral, NA = Not Applicable, and U = Unfunded

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3rd Quarter: ending March 31, 2001

ORGANIZATION: 5) 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	Construction activities are continuing at a rapid pace at the North End, Mid-Corridor and South End of the project. Nineteen of the 21 construction contracts representing 98% of the total construction dollars for the program have been awarded (9 contracts are underway and 10 have been completed). Revenue operations for the corridor are scheduled to begin in April 2002. All construction is scheduled for completion in December 2002. On December 14, 2000 ACTA staff presented progress report to the Alameda Corridor Governing Board on the status of revenue collection and accounting system.	None	NA
Alameda Corridor Conservation Corps	On March 8, 2001 the Alameda Corridor Conservation Corps presented a status report (quarterly) to the Alameda Corridor Governing Board on the Conservation Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and future employment of corridor residents. Next quarterly progress report. 	NA
Alameda Corridor Business Outreach Program	On March 8, 2001, the Tutor Saliba Team (TST) presented a status report (quarterly) to the Alameda Corridor Governing Board on the Job Training and Development Program (JTDP). The 4 th quarter report ending December 31, 2000 indicated the most significant progress in all areas of the JTDP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union apprenticeship placement of the JTDP graduates. • Next quarterly progress report. 	NA
Alameda Corridor-Mid Corridor Construction-Status	The mid-corridor construction consists of building a 33- foot deep and 50- foot wide trench for freight trains. Construction of the mid-corridor by-pass track and storage tracks are currently underway. Nearly seven and one-half miles of the ten-mile long trench is excavated and 24 of the 30 bridges are in service. Obtain resolution of outstanding items of work (i.e., punch-list items) with corridor cities and railroad companies to complete the remaining construction activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of trench excavation (all bridges in service). • Completion of most roadway work (i.e., paving, hardscape, drainage). • Wall construction underway. 	NA

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3rd Quarter: ending March 31, 2001

ORGANIZATION: 5) 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		
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)</i>	<i>6-Month Projected Actions</i>	<i>MTA Position*</i>	
South End Construction-Status	Multiple construction projects are underway including the Henry Ford Grade Separation Project and a number of County of LA and City of Carson Ports Access Demonstration Projects (PADP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction activities limited to track and signal work on Henry Ford Grade Separation Continuous construction activities on the County and PADP projects. 	NA	
North End Construction-Status	Multiple construction projects are underway including the Redondo Junction Grade Separation Project, structures construction (bridges and box culvert) and underground utility relocations at Santa Fe Avenue. Redondo Junction grade separation is scheduled for completion in April 2001 (actual cutover to passenger tracks is scheduled for mid July). Washington grade separation is scheduled for completion in May 2001.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete construction of the ACTA bridge. Completion of approximately 85% of all construction activities at the north end. 	NA	
Alameda Corridor Risk Management	On November 18, 1999 the Governing Board approved and authorized implementation of the Charter for an Ad Hoc Oversight Audit Advisory Committee. The Audit Advisory Committee will provide a forum for monitoring and discussing internal and external audit matters. The committee is comprised of three members of the Governing Board representing the POLA, POLB and MTA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous oversight activities by the committee. 	NA	
Corridor Cities-Construction Impact Mitigation Measures	Construction impact mitigation measures are in process and ongoing. Direct traffic management plans for the segment of the project in Compton is under review. ACTA will report on-going construction related activities at monthly Engineering Review Panel meetings. ACTA's website will contain notices, detours and other project related activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and implementation of traffic management plan(s) for each project segment/phase. 	NA	

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3rd Quarter: ending March 31, 2001

ORGANIZATION: 6) 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 eight voting members: MTA, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), Imperial County, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and Caltrans. The five Southern California air districts are ex-officio members.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES: Vacant	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
Election of officers	In January 2001, the RTAC elected Lee Ann Garcia, representative of the San Bernardino Associated Governments, to serve as Chair in 2001.	None	NA
Meeting schedule	None	RTAC will meet twice in 2001. The next scheduled meeting is May 11, 2001	NA

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ORGANIZATION: 7) SCAG Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC)		LEAD MTA STAFF: PHONE NUMBER:	Douglas Kim (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) MTA Seat: Vacant	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
2001 RTP	TCC continued the process of resolving policy issues needed to approve the RTP. In March, TCC approved a regional aviation growth plan that allocates future demand throughout the region. This includes limiting LAX to 78 million annual passengers (MAP) and allocating substantial growth to a new general aviation airport at El Toro.	The final RTP is scheduled for adoption by the TCC on April 5, 2001 and by the Regional Council on April 12, 2001.	N
Interface Between MTA's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and 2001 RTP	MTA staff continued to work with SCAG staff to ensure that the Draft LRTP's recommendations are fully incorporated into SCAG's revised Draft RTP.	MTA staff will ensure that the LRTP's priorities are incorporated into the Final RTP prior to consideration of the RTP by the Regional Council on April 12, 2001.	N

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ORGANIZATION: 8) Fuel Cell Buyers Consortium (FCBC)		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: James Cragin (Alternate: Vacant)	
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)</i>	<i>6-Month Projected Actions</i>	<i>MTA Position*</i>
Appoint Fuel Cell Buyers Consortium President	Mr. Robert Cashin submitted his resignation as President of the Fuel Cell Buyers Consortium. The Board accepted his resignation and appointed Ms. Karen Heit as President. Ms. Heit is MTA's Director of Local Programming and Policy. She is familiar with the programs the Fuel Cell Buyers Consortium has undertaken.	None	S
RFP to Procure Fuel Cell Vehicles	None	FCBC will approve release of an RFP to procure Advanced Transit Vehicles	S

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3rd Quarter: ending March 31, 2001

ORGANIZATION: 9) Access Services, Incorporated (ASI)		LEAD MTA STAFF: Jim McLaughlin Scott Greene PHONE NUMBER: (213) 922-2806 (213) 922-2802	
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Access Services is the provider of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Complementary Paratransit in Los Angeles County and serves as a mobility facilitator for persons with disabilities and specialized transportation needs.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES: ASI has offered ex-officio membership for MTA to the ASI Board; MTA response pending.	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
Southern Region Service Quality Issues	In January 2001, the ASI Board of Directors selected Global Paratransit to be the new service provider for the southern region. The previous provider, the Independent Taxi Operator's Association (ITOA), operated the southern region Ready service since July 1999 but experienced financial difficulties ultimately leading to the consignment of the contract to Global. Preliminary reports indicate improved quality of ADA paratransit services. The number of passengers in February 2001 increased 17.5% over the same period one-year ago, and the average telephone call length time decreased by 12.5%.	ASI and MTA will continue to monitor the service quality of the new provider Global Paratransit.	S
Free Fare for ADA Paratransit Eligible	In June 2000, the MTA Board approved a two-year demonstration project to test the effectiveness of a free fare in attracting ADA eligible riders to use regular fixed-route buses and trains. The program has been effectively implemented by MTA Operations. Since the MTA initiated the program, three additional transit systems have agreed to a free fare for ADA eligible customers and their personal care attendants, including Foothill Transit, the Monterey Park Spirit, and Norwalk Transit.	ASI expects to add ten additional transit systems by July 1, 2001 including the City of Azusa transit system, Glendale Beeline, Carson Circuit, Compton Renaissance, and Santa Monica Big Blue Bus. These and other systems will consider implementation of the free fare to ADA-eligible patrons in the near future.	S
New ASI Board Members	In February 2001, two new members joined the seven-member ASI Board. The Federation of Independent Living Centers appointed Mr. Joel Ring, an attorney, and the Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Gordon Anthony who is a County employee and ADA Compliance Officer for the County.	Both the municipal operators and the local transit systems will hold elections in Spring 2001 to elect their representatives to the ASI Board. Jim Parker, City of Norwalk, and Terri Slimmer, City of West Hollywood, presently represent these two stakeholder groups.	S

2001 *S = Support, O = Oppose, N = Neutral, NA = Not Applicable, and U = Undecided