



MAY 23, 2003

Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

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Los Angeles, CA
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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: JOHN B. CATOE, JR.
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SUBJECT: RESTATEMENT OF MONTHLY RIDERSHIP

ISSUE

The methodology for estimating average weekday bus and rail ridership was modified, and as a result, the monthly ridership estimates have been restated for the first half of FY03. The methodology previously employed resulted in erroneous monthly estimates, especially for Metro Rail.

DISCUSSION

Each month, staff produces a report that estimates monthly ridership and average weekday boardings. If the FY02 monthly estimates were added together, the annual Unlinked Passenger Boardings would show the following:

Bus System	366,744,300
Red Line	40,681,752
Blue Line	20,731,448
Green Line	<u>8,752,711</u>
Total	436,910,211

Each year, MTA uses Federal Transit Administration approved statistical methods to estimate annual ridership for reporting to the National Transit Database (NTD). Federal funding allocations are based, in part, on bus and rail system patronage reported for NTD. The total Unlinked Passenger Boardings for MTA's NTD report in FY 02 are as follows:

Bus System	366,291,956
Red Line	34,551,206
Blue Line	23,251,750
Green Line	<u>9,353,798</u>
Total	433,448,710

The monthly estimates for the Bus System were well within 1% of the annual NTD figure. The monthly estimates for Light Rail understated patronage by 5 to 10%. On the other hand, monthly reports overstated Red Line ridership by more than 15% when compared to the annual NTD number. Viewed in another way, Average Weekday Ridership for the Red Line was erroneously represented in monthly reports to be around 130,000 boardings. In actuality, Average Weekday Boardings of approximately 100,000 are a more accurate reflection of Red Line performance for FY02. Monthly ridership reports will begin reflecting the corrected figures for Metro Bus and Rail services.

NEXT STEPS

Since federally reported NTD estimates were derived through statistically sound methods, their accuracy for a given reporting year has remained within the prescribed standards. Thus, annual ridership estimates for MTA's bus and rail systems remain accurate. No corrective action is necessary.

Staff has restated and published new boarding estimates for each month of FY03. The new methodology for calculating the estimated monthly ridership will more closely approximate the annual totals calculated for NTD.

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