



Metro

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

NOVEMBER 24, 2004

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH ROGER SNOBLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: JOHN B. CATOE, JR. *John B. Catoe, Jr.*
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL TRANSIT TRAINING
CONSORTIUM

ISSUE

This report informs the Board of MTA's participation in the Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium (SCR TTC).

DISCUSSION

Over the past 18 months, transit operators in Southern California have worked to establish a consortium of operators and educational institutions with the goal of developing industry-driven standardized training programs for mechanics. This includes the development of new methods and systems to keep pace with technological advances taking place in the industry. More than 30 transit operators, community colleges and related educational organizations in southern California have joined the consortium to date (Attachment A).

SCR TTC's first priority is bus and facility maintenance training. The consortium will take a broad look at current maintenance training programs and evaluate how educational institutions can standardize and regionalize this training with written repair procedures and labor standards. Unlike other industries, no certification exists for transit maintenance journeymen or master mechanics at the state or federal levels. Currently, each transit agency trains its own maintenance personnel and the quality and content of the training varies considerably among the systems. By partnering with local community colleges, the consortium will initially develop a basic mechanic training program with the applicable certifications. This will help to meet local workforce needs by providing well-trained, dependable students for available jobs in the industry.

Now and in the near future, consortium members will begin to incorporate new technologies into their operations including hybrid propulsion systems, advanced communication and intelligent transportation systems, on-board computerized

Planning Steering Committee:

The Planning Steering Committee is working on a grant centered on improving the ITS Professional Capacity Building programs. The Planning Steering Committee has received a \$70,000 contract from ITS of America to help in start-up costs and develop an inventory and preliminary needs assessment to determine the skill levels the colleges have to offer. The committee has completed about 75% of this initial contract with ITS and hopes to obtain another contract at the beginning of the year.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will report back to the Board on the SCRTTC's progress as key milestones are achieved.

ATTACHMENTS

A. SCRTTC Membership

Prepared by: Andrea Burnside, Managing Director
Corporate Safety and Operations Training

**Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium Membership
(as of 11/24/04)**

Transit Members:

Commerce Municipal Bus Lines
Culver City Municipal Bus Lines
Foothill Transit
Gardena Municipal Bus Lines
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Long Beach Transit
Montebello Bus Lines
Norwalk Transit
Orange County Transportation Authority
OMNITRANS
Santa Clarita Transit
Santa Monica Big Blue Bus
Sunline Transit
Torrance Transit System

College Members:

Cerritos College
Citrus College
Coastline College
College of the Canyons
College of the Desert
Compton College
Cypress College
El Camino College
Golden West College
LA Trade Tech College
Long Beach City College
Orange Coast College
Pasadena City College
Rio Hondo College
San Bernardino Valley College
Santa Ana College
Santa Monica College

Affiliated Members:

Economic and Workforce Development Program

microprocessors and computerized facility support systems. In just a few years, the MTA has introduced to its operations the Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS), the Universal Fare System (UFS), and M3.

Up until now, transit agencies have met their maintenance training needs through training and materials provided by equipment vendors, sporadic in-house training programs, or one-time, project-based relationships with local community colleges. These varied programs are typically inconsistent with one another and lacking regional coordination.

MTA anticipates playing a lead role in developing this regional training, and will benefit from the coordination of training materials and programs and sharing of information and resources among Southern California agencies. As discussed above, MTA will realize the future benefits of well-trained students seeking industry jobs.

Status of SCRTTC Organization

In December 2003, interested consortium members, including MTA, signed a preliminary consortium agreement indicating participation in the project while the Consortium Agreement, incorporation, and related legal details were being completed.

The new SCRTTC organization has appointed several steering committees, tasked with various organizational development efforts:

Legislative Steering Committee:

Members of the Legislative Steering Committee are currently formalizing the 2005 legislative efforts by working with federal and state legislative officials to identify funding sources that would support SCRTTC mission.

The Committee has requested that all of its members incorporate the SCRTTC 2005 legislative efforts into their legislative programs.

Additionally, members of the legislative committee have been speaking with their unions to identify how their unions could support SCRTTC mission.

Organizational Steering Committee:

The Organizational Steering Committee recently established a 10-member SCRTTC Board. The board will serve until June 2005, at which time there will be a general election for officers.

The committee has completed filing for a corporation and is in the process of filing with the Internal Revenue Service for non-profit status.

At the first SCRTTC Board meeting, members discussed how to best integrate Long Beach City College's curriculum with Long Beach Transit's curriculum. The goal is to develop a "transit course" that community college graduates can be placed in local transit maintenance operations and become productive employees without further level entry training.