



# MTA LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

DATE: June 19, 1997

TO: MTA BOARD DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATES

FROM: GISSELLE ACEVEDO-FRANCO *gaf*

While the schedule for consideration of federal transportation-related legislation is still developing, the following should be useful for Board Members and Alternates:

## FY 1998 TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS

Chairman Frank Wolf's (R-VA) House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee has indicated that it intends to introduce and markup (consider Subcommittee amendments) the FY 1998 Transportation Appropriations bill on Tuesday, June 24. The full House Appropriations Committee is tentatively scheduled to consider the legislation and full Committee amendments at its markup on July 15. The bill could possibly go to the House floor for further amendment and final passage before Members depart for their August recess on August 2.

In the Senate, Chairman Richard Shelby's (R-AL) Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee has yet to schedule its consideration of the Transportation Appropriations bill, but could possibly do so in mid- to late-July.

The MTA's appropriation request for FY 1998 includes \$100 million for the Red Line MOS-3 project, \$10 million for the Advanced Technology Transit Bus, and seeks the highest possible amount for bus capital and operating formula grants.

## INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT (ISTEA) REAUTHORIZATION

With ISTEA scheduled to expire on September 30, both the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee are working on proposals to reauthorize the ISTEA legislation.

Because of controversy surrounding transportation spending in the recently-passed FY 1998 Budget Resolution, it is unclear whether Congress will move forward with another multi-year ISTEA reauthorization or instead pass a one-year "stop gap" measure with the goal of securing more overall transportation funds next year. Government Relations staff will update the Board as soon as a schedule for ISTEA consideration is announced.

The MTA's \$723 million ISTEA reauthorization request includes \$250 million for bus system improvements, \$100 million for the Mid-City extension of MOS-3, \$58 million for the East-West Valley extension of MOS-4, \$44 million for the Eastern extension of MOS-4, \$154 million for the I-10 HOV Lane/El Monte Bus Extension, \$97 million for the San Gabriel Valley Highway-Rail Grade, and \$20 million for the Santa Monica Blvd. Transit Parkway.