



MTA LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

DATE: May 23, 1997

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: GISELLE ACEVEDO-FRANCO

- The Senate is considering the Budget Resolution for FY 1999 to FY 2002. Yesterday, as expected, Senators Warner (R-VA) and Baucus (D-MT) offered an amendment to increase transportation funding similar to the amendment which failed two days earlier in the House. As in the House, the transportation amendment failed by a narrow margin, 51 to 49. Senator Boxer (D-CA) voted "yes" and Senator Feinstein (D-CA) voted "no."
- SB 567 (Polanco), the bill relating to the restructuring of the MTA Board, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with no opposition. The measure will be considered on the Senate floor within the next two weeks. Attached is a copy of the "Floor Letter" sent to all Los Angeles County Senators.
- The issue of funding for the seismic retrofit of the state-owned toll bridge continues to be debated in the Capitol. The MTA has played a lead role in efforts to protect state transportation funding coming to non-Bay area transportation agencies. The net effect of our efforts is that legislators and their staff are now searching for a way to fund the Bay Bridge without reporting STIP projects. MTA contract lobbyists are also coordinating our efforts with the Association of general Contractors (AGC).

If you need further information regarding these issues please contact Claudette Moody, State Administrator, at 213/922-2237 or Arthur Sahikian, Federal issues at 213/922-2232