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**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**JULY 21, 1999**

Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority

**SUBJECT: UNIVERSAL FARE SYSTEM STATUS REPORT**

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012-2952

**ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file status report on Universal Fare System (UFS).

**ISSUE**

The Board has requested a bi-monthly update on the UFS Project.

**DISCUSSION**

**Project overview**

The UFS project is a coordinated set of specifications, procurement requirements and operating agreements that will enable seamless inter-modal and inter-agency electronic fare collection throughout Los Angeles County. During the next three fiscal years, MTA and other operators will procure and operate compatible systems as a regional initiative to improve transit travel speeds, increase transit ridership, and increase fare revenues. In addition, the UFS system will be integrated with the MTA's Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS).

**Administrative activities since May 1999 Board update**

- Booz, Allen & Hamilton has begun work on the specifications.
- Santa Monica Big Blue Bus has convened the Money Taskforce, which will develop the administrative structure and rules for the regional clearing functions.

- UFS-funded solutions for the Metrocard Y2K problems are being negotiated with GFI-Genfare. Software and/or hardware solutions are necessary in each of the Metrocard system components. Each affected municipal operator is working directly with GFI-Genfare to implement the appropriate solution for their specific GFI farebox models and the Metrocard system components. Local agency commitments to implement specific systemwide software and hardware modifications must be made in July to ensure the Metrocard system is fully functional on January 1, 2000. Because MTA is not currently operating Metrocard equipment or GFI fareboxes, the Metrocard Y2K problems will not directly affect MTA operations.
- Scope for the Fare Policy Study is being developed pursuant to the Board's June 1999 motion. Booz, Allen & Hamilton will address the administrative issues within their UFS contract. The fare policy issues will be addressed by MTA staff with consultant assistance as required. The study schedule and scope will be presented at the August 1999 Operations Committee meeting.
- Municipal operators have re-organized the scopes of work for previous Call for Projects grants and the regional funds made available through the RTAA adoption process. As a result the original Metrocard grant will be closed out as of 6/30/99 and the FY 97 TDM grant will be completed during FY 00.

#### Procurement activities since May 1999 Board update

- MTA has released an RFP for an interim Electronic Transfer Issuing Machine (ETM) component of the UFS system that will issue transfers on MTA buses. The components, which consist of an operator console, a remote transfer printer, a wireless data transfer system, microprocessors / garage computers, and software, will be used on the MTA fleet until the UFS fareboxes can be procured and installed. The interim components will then be used as point-of-sale devices to track fare media transactions and issue receipts at MTA's vendor outlets. A proposed contract is expected to be presented to the board in January 2000.
- Staff is continuing discussions with GFI-Genfare to incorporate the firm's Metrocard components and operating system into the UFS. Staff intends to return to the Board in August with a procurement strategy for the GFI Metrocard components to ensure integration with the farebox and TVM specifications.

Next steps

A Gantt chart for the UFS project is attached (see Attachment 1).

- Complete negotiations with GFI-Genfare for UFS Metrocard components / software - July 1999
- Clarify UFS management structure / procurement strategies - August 1999
- Complete draft specifications for UFS Farebox and TVMs - September 1999
- Complete agency peer review of Specifications - October 1999
- Issue RFPs for UFS equipment - November 1999
- Award contracts for UFS equipment - June 2000

Prepared by: Steve Lantz  
UFS Project Manager

Attachments

1. UFS Gantt Chart

*for Bradford W. McAllister*  
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Keith L. Killough  
Deputy Executive Officer  
Regional Transportation Planning and  
Development

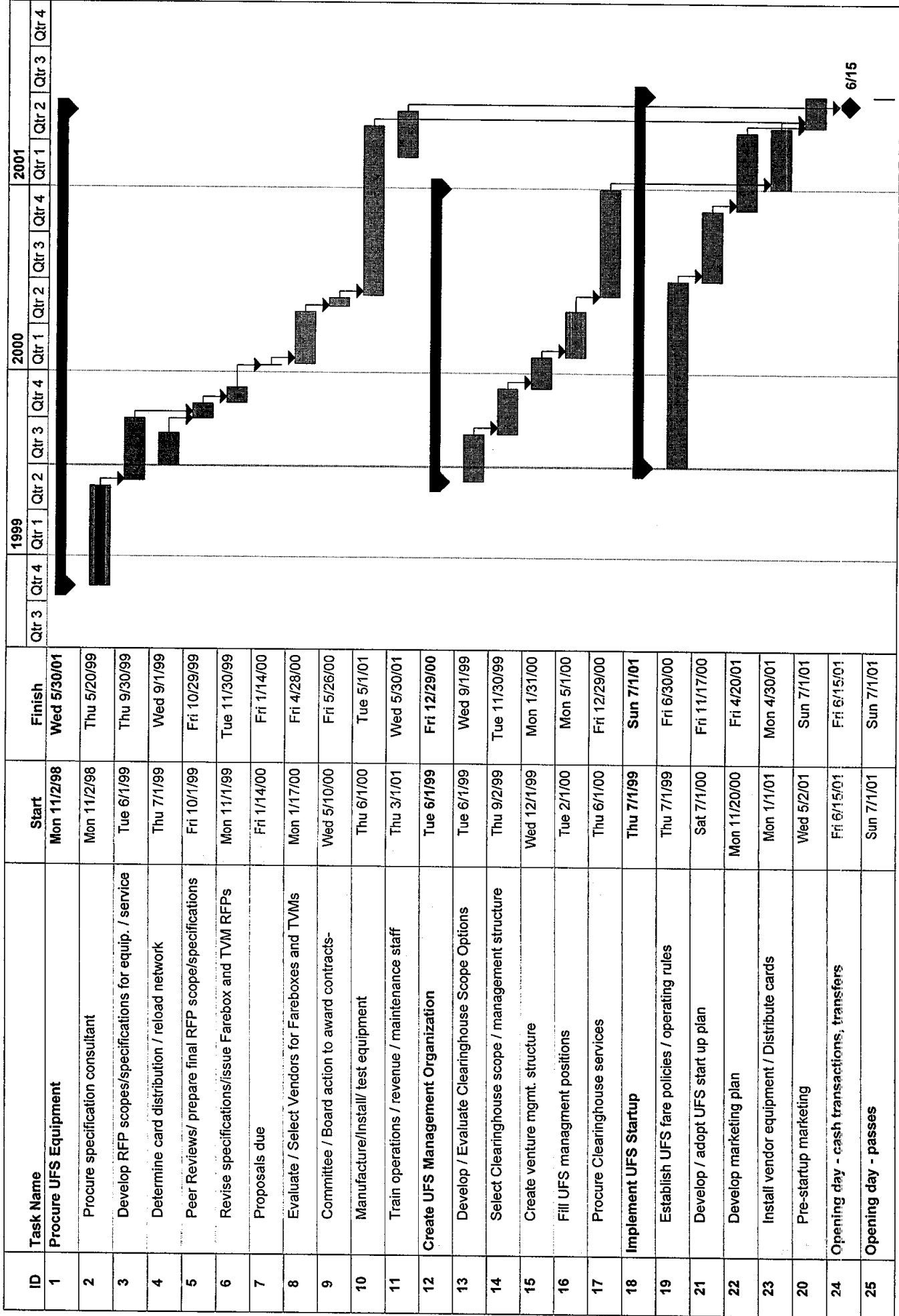
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Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Universal Fare System Gantt Chart



6/29/99