

**UNIVERSAL FARE SYSTEM (UFS)  
PROJECT STATUS**

Presented to

**LACMTA Board of Directors**



October 18, 2000

## **INTRODUCTION**

- **The last bi-monthly UFS Board update was provided in July.**
- **Staff is working with outside legal counsel to review the solicitation documents as requested by the Board in the July Operations Committee meeting.**
- **Staff and consultants are in the process of completing final changes to the Technical Specifications and RFP documents.**

## **OVERVIEW OF ADDENDA PREPARATION**

**We are :**

- **providing detailed information and drawing packages on existing bus divisions and rail stations;**
- **providing additional contract language to cover construction and installation requirements;**
- **coordinating with outside legal counsel (Foley & Lardner) to provide additional contractual protection to the MTA;**
- **requesting proposers provide costs for the UFS with both magnetic and smart card capabilities, as well as smart card capabilities alone.**

## **NON-MAGNETIC OPTION**

- **Proposers will be asked to propose on a system that includes both magnetic and smart card capabilities.**
- **As an option, proposers will also be asked to submit pricing for a ‘smart card-only’ system.**
- **This request for additional information does not commit MTA to any specific action, and only allows consideration of alternatives in a more informed way. Analysis of this pricing information will assist the MTA in determining its best fare collection investment.**
- **Based on observations at WMATA and CTA, MTA wishes to examine the cost benefit of a “smart card only” system.**
  - **Read/write magnetic stripe is relatively high maintenance, low reliability and low “throughput” compared to smart card**
  - **Smart card systems have matured greatly during the last several years**
  - **Magnetic stripe cards may be accepted, possibly with reduced functionality (passes only).**

## **LEGAL REVIEW OF PROCUREMENT**

- **L.A. County has engaged the law firm, Foley & Lardner, to review large Information System procurements.**
- **At the request of the MTA Board, Foley & Lardner has also been retained by County Counsel to review the MTA's UFS procurement documents and process.**
- **Staff is currently working with Foley & Lardner to review the contract documents and solicitation package to provide additional contractual protection to the MTA.**
- **There has been an impact to the project schedule by several months.**

## **NEXT STEPS & SCHEDULE**

- **Issue Addenda** **December, 2000**
- **Receive & Evaluate Proposals** **January, 2001**
- **Negotiations** **March, 2001**
- **Issue BAFO** **April, 2001**
- **Recommend contract award** **May, 2001**

**At the same time, staff and consultants will be reviewing equipment quantities, smartcard/mag-stripe policy, and implementation issues. This analysis will be done in time for management analysis to be included in the BAFO.**