

MOTION BY MAYOR ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

Finance & Budget, Executive Mgmt. & Audit and Operations Committees

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Free Transit for School Kids during Non-Peak Hours

With the budget challenges facing our educational institutions, funding for transportation services for field trips has been cut.

This negatively impacts students, especially low income students who do not have alternative resources for transportation.

A number of other major transit agencies in the U.S. – including MTA – already let younger children ride for free and provide discounted fares for students however their policies do not provide free trips during the day for school-organized activities.

MTA should partner with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and other districts and schools in Los Angeles County to provide free access to MTA transit services for school-organized activities during designated non-peak hours.

This will enable teachers to use public transit for field trips and other school organized educational activities off-campus when buses and trains are less crowded.

In exchange, MTA will provide materials on the benefits of transit to the school for inclusion in brief sessions with students.

Because MTA trains and buses have capacity during non-peak hours, providing free transit for school organized activities would not increase operating costs (which are fixed) or reduce revenue (the students otherwise would not be riding or paying fares).

I THEREFORE MOVE that the MTA Board adopt as policy that:

Pre-school, elementary school, middle school, and high school students in Los Angeles County shall be allowed to ride MTA transit for free during designated hours for eligible school-organized activities led by teachers.

I FURTHER MOVE that the MTA Board direct the CEO to develop and implement procedures for administering the policy by January 31, 2011, including but not limited to:

1. Determining eligibility for students
2. Designating days and hours during which eligible students can ride for free
3. Determining eligible school-organized activities (field trips, etc.)
4. Identifying responsibilities of and conditions for participating school districts or individual schools (chaperones, maximum group size, liability/indemnification, advanced scheduling, transit education, etc.)

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