

Board Report

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation
Authority
One Gateway Plaza
3rd Floor Board Room
Los Angeles, CA

File #: 2022-0097, File Type: Motion / Motion Response Agenda Number: 25.

OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Motion by:

DIRECTORS HAHN, SOLIS, MITCHELL, BUTTS, AND BONIN

J Line (Silver) Electrification Motion

The Metro J Line (Silver) Bus Rapid Transit service offers a single-seat ride, spanning 38 miles from San Pedro to El Monte. This high-quality bus line serves tens of thousands of riders daily, connecting them to jobs in Downtown LA, dozens of rail and bus lines, and Union Station.

The J Line is the next line set for electrification, with the Metro G Line (Orange) having recently gone fully electric. To ensure the success of this new technology, Metro staff have been evaluating locations for new en-route charging facilities and have identified the El Monte Bus Terminal and the Harbor Transit Gateway Center as the best-available locations.

As part of the NextGen Bus Plan, approved by the Board in October 2020 (Board File 2020-0617), Metro staff recommended terminating the J Line at Harbor Transit Gateway Center, in part owing to challenges with battery electric buses with limited range and Metro's difficulty finding a suitable enroute charging location in San Pedro. In order to maintain the current single-seat ride to San Pedro, the Board unanimously approved Motion 40 in November 2020 (Board File 2020-0781), which directed Metro to meet with numerous agencies about the possibility of locating charging facilities in San Pedro and to provide recommendations to fully electrify the J Line from El Monte to San Pedro.

In January 2022, Metro staff stated in their discussion of Motion 40 that, with a change order to the existing procurement for 100 electric buses on the J Line (Board File 2017-0304, July 2017, and Board File 2019-0605, September 2019), new technology could be installed that extends the range of these buses and ensures that efforts to go fully electric on this important line will not impact service.

SUBJECT: J LINE (SILVER) ELECTRIFICATION MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE Motion by Directors Hahn, Solis, Mitchell, Butts, and Bonin to direct the Chief Executive Officer to return to the Board with a change order for the 100 electric buses designated for the J Line, to extend the range of these buses and to provide the single-seat ride requested by this Board.