

Agency OKs buy of transit hub site

The Anaheim location ultimately will connect several forms of public transportation.

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Orange County Transportation Authority board members on Monday approved the \$22.5 million purchase of nearly 14 acres in Anaheim for a new transit hub.

The county-owned land, located off of Katella Avenue and Douglass Road, will be used for the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center.

"The goal is to bring several modes of transportation in one central location," spokesman Michael Litschi said.

The current Metrolink and Amtrak station in Anaheim will be moved to the site by 2010. Bus, rail and freeway services will be connected through the center.

In addition, a bike path will be created near the property.

In other action:

- Board members approved changes to agreements with three companies that will provide freeway towing services.

Director Michael Duvall voted against the agreements, citing concern that private companies already provide similar services.

Chairman Art Brown said the \$1 that each registered driver pays per year goes a long way for public safety and helping the flow of traffic.

- The board opted to add 78 more 40-foot natural gas-powered buses to a fleet of 249 for the 70-mile bus network.

Delivery and testing of the buses are scheduled for September 2008.

- Rick Grebner, who oversees the Garden Grove (22) Freeway widening for OCTA, said the project will be complete by Nov. 30.

What's left is the second phase of the project, which includes building HOV connectors to the San Diego (405) and San Gabriel River (605) freeways.

Board members agreed to begin preliminary engineering plans for the project after much discussion about the benefits and disadvantages of hiring multiple design firms.



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