

Pasadena Star News

MTA weighs tax measure

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The Metropolitan Transportation Authority will meet today to consider a half-cent sales tax measure proposal that would go on the November ballot and also to consider a Gold Line funding proposal.

The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. at the MTA's building at One Gateway Plaza in downtown Los Angeles.

Last week, the MTA released a project list specifying how much money highway and rail proposals would receive from the anticipated \$40 billion the sales-tax measure would raise over 30 years.

However, MTA board members John Fasana and Michael Antonovich, who represent parts of the San Gabriel Valley, have expressed opposition to the project list.

They have placed a separate item on MTA's agenda to introduce \$80 million in funding for the Gold Line - regardless of whether the sales-tax measure passes or not.

San Gabriel Valley legislators and council members have tied their support of the sales-tax measure to the Gold Line, and have lobbied to secure funding for the line for years. The MTA board has voted down funding the line several times, most recently at the June board meeting.

To get on the November ballot the measure must be approved by the MTA board and by the state Legislature by Aug. 8.