

## **Staff Report on FY07 Budget Input**

Budget process improvement includes making the budget more transparent and to seek out public and stakeholder inclusion. The Board resolution initiating budget process improvement stated, "*We as an agency do best when we are more inclusive.*"

In response to this challenge, there have been a number of events and actions this year intended to improve the budget process by making it more inclusive:

- The **Jurisdictional Coordinating Committee (JCC)** completed a review of the FY07 proposed budget and offered an assessment of how recommendations from last year's JCC report are being implemented. The review identified favorable findings indicating that many positive changes are taking place, including:
  - Quantitatively improve ridership and revenue forecasts,
  - Reduce budget to reflect slower acceptance of new rail cars,
  - Support the need to initiate diesel swap,
  - Increase staffing in the areas of bus planning and analysis,
  - Work to improve the quality of bus data for better scheduling,
  - Consider bi-annual bus and rail passenger surveys,
  - Identify and report on budget risks and uncertainties,
  - Improved budget publications including a budget executive summary and budget information flyer.
  - Develop policy for allocating TIF revenues.
  
- The **Riders' Advisory Council (RAC)** has formed a budget sub-committee. During the evening of March 1<sup>st</sup>, Metro staff made a presentation to the RAC outlining steps being taken to improve the budget process and gave an overview of the entire FY07 budget and budget publications. A Metro staff person was identified as a key point of contact for the RAC on all budget issues and there has been good follow-up conversations.
  
- The first ever **Public Budget Input Session** was held at Metro headquarters on the evening of March 21<sup>st</sup>. Customer and organizations were afforded the opportunity to directly address Metro staff and Board members with questions, concerns and suggestions. This event was applauded as a success and will be instituted as a regular part of the budget review and approval process.