

# Committee Daily Bulletin

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## DISCUSSION WITH AGENCIES

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT MATTER	DISCUSSIONS
Metro Manila Development	Discussion on the planned bus rapid transit (BRT) system in Metro Manila and alleged arbitrary and discriminatory policies on the registration and use of motorcycle as a public utility vehicle	<p>The Committee, chaired by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Quezon City), discussed with concerned agencies the status of the planned bus rapid transit (BRT) system in Metro Manila and the alleged arbitrary and discriminatory policies on the registration and use of motorcycle as a public utility vehicle.</p> <p>Assistant Secretary Arnulfo Fabillar of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) reported that the proposed BRT lines are for the following areas: Quezon Avenue, EDSA and C5.</p> <p>For the BRT lines in Quezon Avenue and EDSA, Fabillar said that the DOTr is still awaiting the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). Meanwhile, the DOTr is working on the feasibility study for the BRT line along C5.</p> <p>However, NEDA Chief Economic Development Specialist Hazel Iris Baliatan and Department of Finance (DOF) Assistant Secretary Maria Edita Tan said that they received a letter signed by the Transportation Secretary on December 7, 2017 withdrawing the two BRT projects.</p> <p>When asked why the DOTr withdrew the BRT projects in Quezon Avenue and EDSA, Fabillar explained that the DOTr needs to study these projects further. The Committee requested the DOTr to submit a copy of the projects' feasibility studies.</p> <p>On the use of motorcycle as a public utility vehicle, Executive Director Samuel Jardin of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said that there is no law allowing motorcycles to be used as public transport.</p> <p>On the other hand, Atty. Ariel Inton, founding president of the Lawyers for Commuters Safety and Protection, explained that while there is a regulation that prohibits a privately-registered vehicle from being used as for-hire vehicle, the LTFRB and DOTr have the power to issue a franchise to private cars as public transport under the transportation network vehicle service (TNVS) scheme.</p> <p>Rep. Castelo and some Committee Members requested the DOTr to review and amend its department order governing the TNVS to include motorcycles under its coverage.</p> <p>Representatives of motorcycle organizations stressed that they support the legalization of the motorcycle for-hire subject to appropriate regulation.</p>