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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON *PAW*
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: THERESE MCMILLAN *Theresa*
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES UNION STATION/CIVIC CENTER
EXPLORATORY TASKFORCE UPDATE

ISSUE

In October 2016, the Metro Board approved a Motion calling for interagency coordination geared towards creating opportunities for equitable transit oriented communities around Los Angeles Union Station and the Civic Center areas. The Motion included a series of next steps for staff to initiate. This Board Box serves as a report back on the progress made thus far.

DISCUSSION

As noted in the October 2016 Motion, the Los Angeles Union Station and Civic Center areas are the center for unprecedented investments in transit infrastructure, new civic and commercial development, housing, open space and innovative community planning. This investment is being advanced by a number of public agencies including Metro, the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, and the California High Speed Rail Authority. The Board, through the Motion, recognized the tremendous value being created and the imperative for the public sector to act through coordination and through a series of implementation activities including:

1. Developing a plan to formally coordinate across planning and infrastructure investments from the Taskforce member agencies in and around Union Station and the Civic Center;
2. Identifying potential revenue generation opportunities, and partnerships necessary to pursue such opportunities;
3. Engaging stakeholders early on and including the public, business leaders, other agencies and neighboring communities;
4. Ensuring equitable distribution of benefits;
5. Seeking funding opportunities, including applying for grants, that support the coordinated planning efforts;
6. Reporting back to the Board by February 2017 with a set of mutually agreeable goals and an action plan for achieving those goals, including potential funding

- sources for any needed studies or implementation efforts. The report back should also include a proposal for the future of the taskforce as a coordinating body;
7. Thereafter, reporting quarterly on progress toward implementing the Taskforce's goals

Los Angeles Union Station/Civic Center Taskforce Progress to Date:

Since the Board action, staff has advanced a series of actions that will support establishing the Taskforce through coordination with the City of Los Angeles, community stakeholders, and solicitation and successful award of a grant.

- October 2016 - present: Ongoing coordination with the Offices of Councilmember Jose Huizar (14th District), Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo (1st District) and the Chief Administrative Office of the City of Los Angeles to advance a complementary motion through the City of Los Angeles City Council that calls for the creation of the Exploratory Taskforce.
- November 2016: Staff submitted a \$1 million grant application to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Sustainability Planning Grant Program to fund a series of planning, sustainability, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) feasibility, and outreach activities for the *Los Angeles Union Station/Civic Center District Study*.
- February 2017: The SCAG Regional Council approved a \$375,000 award for Metro's *Los Angeles Union Station/Civic Center District Study* grant application. This left a shortfall of \$625,000 resulting in the need to significantly downsize from the original breadth of the workscope. Staff will work with SCAG to refine the Statement of Work.
- February 2017: Metro staff requesting \$200,000 in the FY18 budget to support the Alameda District Plan (ADP) update efforts, which were directed by the Board in October 2014. This funding will focus on a nexus study for the potential transfer of floor area ratio and other studies needed to update the ADP. In addition, staff is requesting \$100,000 to support community engagement work around the Taskforce efforts.

The viability of the Exploratory Taskforce as a coordinating body will largely hinge on staffing and financial commitment from participating agencies on an on-going basis. The City of Los Angeles has not yet confirmed this commitment. Assuming the City's commitment is forthcoming, the level of commitment should be revisited after the Taskforce has been in practice for one year.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to work with the City of Los Angeles to advance the complementary motion and shortly thereafter coordinate with the relevant public agency partners to convene the Exploratory Taskforce and initiate the SCAG funded study. Staff will continue to update the Board on progress on a quarterly basis.

If you have further questions or want additional clarification, please contact Jenna Hornstock, Deputy Executive Officer, at (213) 922-7437 or hornstockj@metro.net or Elizabeth Carvajal, Senior Manager, at (213) 922-3084 or carvajale@metro.net.