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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

FROM: THERESE W. MCMILLAN *TW*
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

**SUBJECT: STATUS UPDATE ON THE WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH
TRANSIT CORRIDOR – EASTSIDE PHASE 2 CONNECTION
STUDY**

ISSUE

At the April 19, 2017 Planning and Programming Committee meeting, Director Solis requested a status update on the West Santa Ana Branch – Eastside Phase 2 Connection Study (WSAB – ESP2 Connection Study).

DISCUSSION

At the November 13, 2014 meeting, the Board directed staff to investigate coordination or potential connectivity that does not preclude integration of the ESP2 Extension and the WSAB Transit Corridor. In November 2015, a Task Order was awarded to then Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. (now WSP USA) to conduct the WSAB – ESP2 Connection Study. The analysis will be presented in a Final Technical Report which will identify up to three potentially viable connections suitable for future study, if so directed by the Board. Analysis of the potential connections includes conceptual engineering, as well as preliminary ridership and cost estimates and identification of technical issues to be further evaluated in a future project phase. As this is a preliminary technical study only, public outreach is not included in the scope of work. In July 2016, staff placed the study analysis on hold pending the release of the ESP2 Technical Study in order to ensure that accurate modeling assumptions are utilized. Following the Board's receipt of the Final ESP2 Technical Study in May 2017, the Connection Study has been re-initiated.

The Connection Study project study area is defined as an approximately 10-mile corridor in south and east Los Angeles County (Attachment A) including the cities of Los Angeles, Monterey Park, Montebello, Vernon, Maywood, Commerce, Huntington Park, Bell, Cudahy, Bell Gardens, Pico Rivera, Downey, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier and unincorporated Los Angeles County. The purpose of the Connection Study is to ascertain whether a new transit connection between the two future projects could

provide improved transit service for transit-dependent populations, as well as explore the effectiveness of an alternative route from the Gateway Cities to downtown LA.

Narrowing down potential connector alignments involves a number of considerations, including five criteria categories consistent with those adopted by the Metro Board of Directors in support of the 2017 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update: Mobility, Economy, Accessibility, Safety, and Sustainability and Quality of Life. A final analysis, including conceptual engineering, and preliminary ridership and cost estimates will be conducted to identify the highest performing potential connection corridors.

NEXT STEPS

Staff is coordinating with the ESP2 project team to update the analysis assumptions. The remaining work is anticipated to take up to eight months to complete. Upon completion, staff will provide the Board with a report.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A – Project Study Area Map

PROJECT AREA STUDY MAP

