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FEBRUARY 11, 2020

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PAW

**SUBJECT: FULL FUNDING GRANT AGREEMENT FOR WESTSIDE
PURPLE LINE EXTENSION – SECTION 3**

ISSUE

Earlier today, I was informed that the U.S. Department of Transportation has sent the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the Westside Purple Line Extension (WPLE) – Section 3 to Congress for the 30-day review period mandated by the FAST Act. The WPLE Section 3 FFGA is a \$1.3 billion multi-year agreement provided under the 49 USC 5309 New Starts program. Specifically, the FAST Act stipulates the following regarding FFGAs:

(D) Notification to congress.--

(i) In general.--Not later than 30 days before the date on which the Secretary issues a letter of intent or enters into a full funding grant agreement for an eligible project under this paragraph, the Secretary shall notify, in writing, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives of the proposed letter of intent or full funding grant agreement.

Our Government Relations team has and will continue to work to ensure that congressional committees with jurisdiction over our FFGA have all the information they may need to favorably review the WPLE – Section 3 FFGA.

I want to personally thank all Metro Board members and their staffs for their exceptional support as we have worked together to advance an unprecedented four active FFGA's for Los Angeles County: the Regional Connector Transit Project, the WPLE Section 1, WPLE Section 2, and now the WPLE Section 3 projects. I also want to extend my appreciation to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, our Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation, U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, the FTA's Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams, and

FTA Region IX Administrator Ray Tellis for all working hard to ensure this FFGA moved forward in a deliberate and effective manner.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Fiscal Year 2020 New Starts Report issued by the FTA provided an overall project rating of Medium-High for the WPLE Section 3 and provided approximately \$500 million in funding for new projects anticipated to enter into Full Funding Grant Agreements. Section 3 of the WPLE would extend this heavy rail line from the future Century City station to the planned Westwood/VA Hospital stations at a total cost of \$3.6 billion.

NEXT STEPS

Following the 30-day review period by Congress mandated by the FAST Act, our agency will work directly with the FTA to sign the FFGA documents in order to finalize this \$1.3 billion multi-year agreement. Concurrently, we will be working with our Board of Directors and the U.S. Department of Transportation to find a suitable date and time, in Los Angeles County, to hold a ceremonial event(s) marking this Full Funding Grant Agreement for WPLE - Section 3. All Board members and stakeholders will be extended a formal invitation to join with our agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation to mark a welcome milestone in the construction of this section of the Westside Purple Line Extension project.