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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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SUBJECT: SOUNDWALL PROGRAM FUNDING UPDATE

ISSUE

In October 2018, the Board directed staff to identify options to fund and construct the remaining soundwalls on the Post-1989 retrofit soundwalls lists. Metro staff reported back to the Board in February 2019 (#2018-0787) with a plan to fund the remaining Phase I Priority 2 and 3 soundwalls using amounts programmed in the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) financial forecast. Confirmation of a plan to fund the Phase I Priority 3 and a plan to prioritize, fund, and implement the Phase II soundwalls will be developed upon completion of Phase I Priority 2 projects. This report specifically addresses the potential use of the Proposition C 25% replacement credits as a funding source for the unfunded soundwalls.

BACKGROUND

The Metro soundwall program consists of the construction of soundwalls throughout the county that meet state eligibility criteria. The program is prioritized using the following “phases” and “priorities.”

- Phase I: Soundwalls that were required to be constructed as part of High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes (HOV) projects but were deferred; and
- Phase II: All other retrofit/after-the-fact soundwall locations deemed eligible along the various freeways.

Within Phase I, three priority lists were established:

- Priority 1: Soundwalls warranted for construction within the limits of newly constructed HOV lane projects but built only on one side of the freeway.
- Priority 2: Soundwalls warranted for construction within the limits of newly constructed HOV lane projects but not built on either side of the freeway.
- Priority 3: Soundwalls that met the requirements to be in Phase I but were identified after establishment of the initial Phase I list.

The current status of the countywide retrofit soundwall program is summarized in Table 1 below. The LRTP financial forecast includes funding for all Phase I soundwalls, and may, depending on the ultimate cost, complete all of those. The Phase II soundwalls have an estimated cost ranging from \$688 million to \$1.376 billion (in current year dollars) depending on determination of final size of the projects and are not funded or included in the LRTP.

**Table 1
Metro Countywide Retrofit Soundwall Program
Status Summary**

	Phase I			Phase II
	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	
Cost:	\$78M	\$222M (Estimated)	\$287M (Estimated)	None
Source:	-Measure R -Proposition C	- Measure R - Proposition C - SB1 Local Partnership	- STIP (beginning in FY 2035)	TBD
Status:	Completed	In Progress - Package 10 in final design; Package 11 in construction. - Package 12- 14: Project initiation/ approval reports being developed.	Inactive Requires confirmation of funding.	Inactive Requires eligibility determination, funding, and prioritization.

Proposition C 25% Replacement Credits

In January 2016 (#2015-1763), the Board approved the programming of \$350 million of Proposition C 25% funds for yet-to-be-identified projects in the San Fernando Valley, Arroyo Verdugo, and Gateway subregions. The funding is referred to as replacement credits because the initial source was Measure R 20% Highway funds that replaced Proposition C 25% in order to reduce the need for Proposition C borrowing. Per the Board action, the replacement credits are programmed “late in the third decade” of Measure R based on the assumption of availability of funds at that time.

The assumed sources of funds included surplus funds from the I-5 North HOV Lanes project (SR-134 to SR-170), the I-5 South HOV Lanes project (I-605 to Orange County line), and the I-5 South Carmenita Road Interchange project, all of which were funded prior to the passage of Measure R. It should be noted that the HOV projects are not expected to be completed until FY 2023 and there is a potential that a portion of the \$350 million assumed surplus funds will be needed to address higher costs of those projects.

DISCUSSION

The estimated amount of the replacement credits is subject to the completion of the I-5 HOV projects and realized savings. Any future cost increases will reduce the amount of credits available for soundwalls.

Based on the status of the Metro soundwalls, the amount of replacement credits, the risk that the credits could be needed to cover higher construction costs for the I-5 projects, and requirement that the credits be used in the subregion from which those funds are derived, potential options for use of the replacement credits are as follows.

- In the event of experiencing funding shortfalls in completing the Phase I soundwalls, use all or a portion of the net credits for any additional funding needed to complete Phase I and transfer the remainder of funds to Phase II projects.
- If Phase I is fully funded, use all or a portion of the credits toward the implementation of the eligible Phase II soundwalls listed in Table 2 below starting after FY 2030 barring any acceleration of funding.

Recommendations for funding and delivery of the Phase II soundwalls will be presented to the Board upon completion of Phase I.

Table 2

Soundwall Phase II Projects Eligible to Receive Proposition C 25% Replacement Credits

Route	City	Project Description
San Fernando Valley		
101	Los Angeles	North of Lankershim Blvd to North of Vineland Ave: SB
101	Los Angeles	Vineland Ave to 0.2 Mi North of Moorpark St: NB & SB
101	Los Angeles	Radford Ave to Laurel Canyon Blvd: NB
101	Los Angeles	North of Hayvenhurst Ave to Burbank Blvd: NB & SB
101	Los Angeles	West of Reseda Blvd to Yolanda Ave: SB
101	Woodland Hills	Winnetka Ave to Desoto Ave: NB
101	Los Angeles	Canoga Ave to Owensmouth Ave: NB
101	Los Angeles	West of Topanga Canyon to East of Farralone Ave: WB
101	Los Angeles	Shoup Ave to E Woodlake Ave: NB
101	Woodland Hills	Dunman Ave to 0.4 Mi South of Mulholland Dr: SB
118	Chatsworth	East of Topanga Canyon Bl: WB
118	Chatsworth	Topanga Canyon Blvd Off-Ramp EB
210	Los Angeles	East of Foothill Blvd to West of MacClay St: WB & EB
210	Los Angeles	Paxton St to South of Sunland Ave: WB & EB
Arroyo Verdugo		
210	Glendale	0.4 Mi. West of Honolulu Ave to Boston Ave: WB & EB
210	La Canada/Flintridge	Boston to Berkshire Place: WB & EB
134	Burbank	East of S California to Bob Hope Drive Off-Ramp
134	Glendale	San Rafael Ave: EB
Gateway		
91	Cerritos	East of Studebaker Rd to Coral Reef Cir. WB connector to NB LA-605
105	LA County/Lynw	West of Wilmington Ave. to East of State St: WB
105	Lynwood	West of State St. to West of Long Beach Blvd: EB
105	Lynwood	West of Long Beach Blvd to West of Spruce St: WB
105	Lynwood	West of Bullis St to East of Wright Rd: EB
405	Long Beach	Clark Ave Bridge: SB
405	Long Beach	SB I-405 to SB I-710:
605	Long Beach	North of Coyote Creek OC to South of Spring St. NB On-Ramp: NB
605	Lakewood	El Dorado Park between Spring St & Carson St: SB
605	Norwalk	South of I-105 to North of Rosecrans Ave: SB
605	Pico Riviera	South of Telegraph Rd. to South of Slauson Ave: SB
605	Whittier	UPRR Bridge to North of Beverly Bl: NB
710	Bell/South Gate	Imperial Hwy to South of Clara St: SB

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue with the delivery of the Phase I soundwalls and I-5 HOV projects and provide regular reports to the Board on funding status (including the amount of Proposition C 25% replacement credits), and potential opportunities to utilize these funds to implement the countywide soundwall projects.