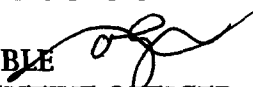





Metro

FEBRUARY 29, 2008

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: CAROL INGE 
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

**SUBJECT: RELEASE OF THE CANOGA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR)**

ISSUE

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that upon the completion of a project's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) that the Report be released for public review and comment. This is to inform the Board that the DEIR for the Canoga Extension of the Metro Orange Line will be released during the first week of March 2008 for a 45-day public review period.

DISCUSSION

At its March 22, 2007 meeting, the Board authorized two professional services contracts for the purposes of completing an EIR and preliminary engineering (PE) for a Northern/Canoga Extension of the Metro Orange Line as well as for conducting community outreach activities. The project is a four mile extension of the Metro Orange Line from the Canoga Park Station north to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station. In addition, staff was directed to examine the feasibility of a two-mile extension from the Chatsworth Metrolink Station to the SR-118 Freeway and also to work with the City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation (LADOT) on bus speed improvements for the eastern San Fernando Valley, specifically on Lankershim, Van Nuys, Reseda, and Sepulveda. The project's primary funding source is a \$100 million earmark from the State Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP).

Since that time, staff completed the scoping process including conducting two formal community meetings, an agency meeting and numerous presentations concerning the project to stakeholder groups and organizations. In September 2007, the Board received the results of the scoping process and the two build alternatives (Canoga dedicated bus lanes and the Canoga Busway) that were being moved forward along with the No Build and the Transportation Systems Management (TSM) alternatives, into the DEIR phase of work. Further, only DeSoto would be explored for the on-street SR-118 extension.

Work has been completed on all the required elements of the DEIR and it is now ready for release.

Bus Speed Improvements in the Eastern San Fernando Valley (SFV)

Staff executed a \$900,000 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with LADOT to enable the City to identify bus speed improvement projects that could be made on Lankershim, Van Nuys, Reseda, and Sepulveda. Additionally, LADOT will use MOU funds to complete PE on improvements identified. Although LADOT is taking the lead, Metro Operations is working with them to ensure the identified bus speed improvements would have the greatest benefit for buses operating in the four corridors. Currently, the City has identified an initial set of improvements upon which Metro Operations provided comments. Over the next several months, these improvements will be screened and refined.

NEXT STEPS

Staff has scheduled two public hearing for the project as follows:

- * Wednesday, March 19, 2008: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

NEW Academy of Canoga Park
21425 Cohasset Street
Multi-Purpose Room,
Canoga Park, CA

- * Wednesday, March 26, 2008: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Chatsworth High School
10027 Lurline Avenue
Chancellor Hall Room,
Chatsworth, CA

At the hearings, both written and public comments will be encouraged. The comment period will be open until April 16th. Comments will be accepted until that time.

Staff will return to the Board during its May 2008 cycle for the purpose of choosing a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). After the selection of an LPA, the project's PE and preparation of the Final EIR will commence. Staff will return to the Board in Winter 2008 for certification of the Final EIR and authorization to begin work on the Project's Design Development phase as well as authorization to submit a request to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to obligate the project's remaining TCRP earmark.

ATTACHMENT

Corridor Map

Canoga Transportation Corridor

