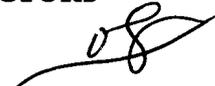




Metro

November 21, 2008

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: CAROL INGE 
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

SUBJECT: METRO ORANGE LINE CANOGA EXTENSION

ISSUE

The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and Preliminary Engineering (PE) drawings are being completed for the Canoga Extension of the Metro Orange Line (MOL) project. The project is on schedule for Board action at the beginning of calendar year 2009. We are providing the schedule leading to the Board adoption of the project.

DISCUSSION

On June 26, 2008, the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Canoga Extension of the MOL was selected by the Board. The LPA would extend the MOL north four miles from its current western busway terminus at Canoga Avenue and Victory Boulevard, to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station. The LPA includes four new MOL stations that would be located at Sherman Way (site of an approximate 250 space park and ride), Roscoe, Nordhoff, and a new platform at the Chatsworth Metrolink station. In addition, the project would have two grade separations, the first over the Los Angeles River just north of Vanowen, and the second, over the active railroad tracks at Lassen Street, descending into the Chatsworth Metrolink station's southern parking lot. Adjacent to the busway, a dedicated bike/pedestrian path would be constructed with landscaping similar to that on the MOL between and adjacent to Canoga Avenue.

After the LPA's selection, work was initiated on the project's FEIR and PE. Because the proposed project affects City of Los Angeles City streets, PE drawings were delivered to both the City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation (LADOT) and Bureau of Engineering (BOE) for their review in early November, with a deadline to receive their comments in early December. Throughout the project, we have worked to keep elected officials, community organizations and stakeholders well informed of significant project developments.

Outreach

On November 17th and 18th, we held two community meetings to update stakeholders on the status of the project prior to the release of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR). Key agenda items included a presentation on the project elements, plans for stations, operations, landscaping, privacy walls and parking. A Question and Answer session with project staff followed. The majority of comments were positive with much interest on the privacy walls, sustainable plants, the bikeway, solar panels and the Chatsworth station platform design.

NEXT STEPS

LADOT and BOE comments on the PE drawings are due in early December. After comments are received, we will review and if necessary, meet to discuss the comments. Appropriate changes will be made to the PE drawings.

Work is progressing on finalizing the responses to comments received on the project's Draft EIR. It is our intent to complete the project's FEIR and PE before the end of the calendar year, thereby allowing us to return to the Board at the beginning of calendar year 2009 for project adoption.