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July 21, 2011

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**THROUGH:** ARTHUR T. LEAHY<sup>AL</sup>  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**FROM:** MARTHA WELBORNE<sup>MW</sup>  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COUNTYWIDE PLANNING

**SUBJECT:** SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)/  
RECIRCULATED SECTIONS OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
REPORT (EIR) FOR THE REGIONAL CONNECTOR

**ISSUE**

This is an update of portions of the previously circulated Draft EIS/EIR. This document, Supplemental EA/Recirculated Sections of the Draft EIR, presents information on the refinements to the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) that staff has shared at community meetings.

**BACKGROUND OR DISCUSSION**

Last September, staff prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) for the Regional Connector Transit Corridor project. The Draft EIS/EIR was made available to identified stakeholders, agencies, and the general public for review and comment during a 45-day review period between September 3, 2010 and October 18, 2010. In addition, Metro held two public hearings (September 28 and October 4, 2010) to provide information about the Draft EIS/EIR, facilitate the submission of comments, and receive oral comments. On October 28, 2010, the Metro Board of Directors voted to designate the Fully Underground LRT Alternative without the Flower/5th/4th Street station as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

In response to comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR, refinements have since been made to the LPA in an effort to minimize environmental impacts and to improve project design. For example, the approach in and out of the underground station at First Street and Central Avenue on the eastern end of the alignment in Little Tokyo has been refined. Information describing the refinements to the LPA has been shared with the community and the recirculation of this information allows for it to be shared with a broader audience.

The comment and public review period for the Supplemental EA/Recirculated Draft EIR Sections will be 45 days starting July 22, 2011 and ending on September 6, 2011. The document will be posted on the Metro web-site and at public libraries along the alignment and connecting light rail lines.

**NEXT STEPS**

Comments received on the document will be incorporated into the Final EIS/EIR anticipated for release in October.