



Metro

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JANUARY 23, 2012

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ARTHUR T. LEAHY *by RT*
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: MARTHA WELBORNE, FAIA *BM for MW*
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COUNTYWIDE PLANNING

**SUBJECT: WILSHIRE BRT SUPPLEMENTAL EIR/EA FUNDING
CLARIFICATION**

ISSUE

During the discussion of Item 35 (Motion for Westchester Light Rail Station – Knabe) at the December 15, 2011 Board meeting, a question was raised by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas regarding cost increases to the Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit project as a result of supplemental environmental analysis approved by the Board to address the removal of a one mile segment of the bus lane project east of Westwood. This Board Box provides clarification to the response provided at that meeting.

BACKGROUND

This is to clarify the response to Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' question regarding cost increases related to the Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit project. When the Board considered the Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) in December 2010, the Board "authorized staff to amend the Wilshire BRT Project EIR/EA and Traffic Analysis consultant contracts for an amount up to \$300,000 for additional environmental analysis...".

The Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit project is being funded with a FTA Very Small Starts Grant with a total project cost of \$31.5 million. This project will be designed and constructed by the City of Los Angeles. MTA, as the grant applicant, budgets the funds for this project as a "subsidy to others" similar to the Call for Projects. Similar to the Call for Projects, the City is responsible for design and construction of the project within the funds provided by the grant. Any cost overruns would be the responsibility of the City of Los Angeles.

At the December 2011 meeting, staff indicated that there was no cost increase to conduct the supplemental environmental activity, as the cost of this work requested was within the CEO's contract approval authority and could be accommodated within the project's budget. As a result, the additional \$300,000 authorized by the Board for supplemental work was not needed. In order to conduct the supplemental environmental work, \$99,747 was spent by our traffic impact analysis consultants and \$74,422 was spent by our environmental consultants for a total of \$174,169. These additional costs are covered under the Very Small Starts grant and therefore, do not result in an increase to the project budget.

NEXT STEPS

A Notice to Proceed has been issued to the City and the project's Memorandum of Understanding is anticipated to be executed in the near future. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2015.