



**Metro**

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**OCTOBER 14, 2013**

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**THROUGH:** ARTHUR T. LEAHY *by [signature]*  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

**SUBJECT:** CALL PROJECT F1219: FIRESTONE BRIDGE OVER THE  
SAN GABRIEL RIVER (F1219)

### ISSUE

The City of Norwalk, as the lead agency in partnership with the City of Downey, was awarded \$1.58 million through the 2007 Call for Projects (CFP) for the Firestone Bridge Over the San Gabriel River (F1219) project. The Cities of Norwalk and Downey were providing \$3.24 million in local match for a total project cost of \$4.82 million. The project's environmental document found that the bridge needed to be replaced; resulting in a significant increase to the project's cost from \$4.82 million to \$14 million and a schedule delay impact of 18 months. The City has requested a change in scope from a bridge widening to replacement and has committed additional local match to cover the cost increase. Metro's share of the total project cost will remain \$1.58 million. This report serves to notify the Board of the cost increase and to seek administrative approval of the change in scope. Further, if there are no Board comments by October 24, 2013, we will administratively revise the project scope of work from a bridge widening to a replacement project and extend the lapse date by one year to be consistent with the construction schedule.

### BACKGROUND

The 2007 Board-approved scope of work consisted of widening the Firestone bridge by 36' to accommodate a 10' center median, 4' shoulders and 4' of bike lanes on both sides. The Bridge would match the existing approach widths, thus eliminating bottlenecks and improving efficiency, while accommodating future vehicle demand in both directions. The sidewalks would be increased from 3' to 8' and the safety barrier rails would be upgraded from wood to standard crash-tested concrete barriers. Finally, the project would rehabilitate the spalling on the girders and cracks in the deck.

Findings from the environmental report conducted for the project determined that the bridge needed to be replaced instead of widened and rehabilitated, due to the deteriorated conditions. The City of Norwalk has requested the scope change to address the environmental report's findings. The revised scope would consist of replacing the existing functionally and structurally deficient bridge over the San Gabriel River with a new bridge, maintaining the existing three travel lanes in each direction, adding 8" sidewalks and shoulders on each side, installing a center median for safety, and improving visibility. Due to the changes in the scope, the construction end date has been moved from December 2013 to June 2015.

As a result of the scope change, the project cost more than doubled from \$4 to \$14 million. Per Metro adopted policy, the project sponsor is responsible for all cost increases. Therefore, Metro's share will remain at the \$1.58 million granted in the 2007 Call for Projects. The Cities of Norwalk and Downey have been successful in receiving Federal funds to cover the funding gap. Because Metro's share of \$1.58 million will not change, if the total project cost exceeds \$4,822,000, the Cities will be entitled to 100% of any cost savings.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will administratively approve the City's scope change request and lapse date, if no Board comments are received by October 24, 2013. Further, we will work with the City to execute a Funding Agreement amendment.