



Metro


Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

April 17, 2014

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ARTHUR T. LEAHY 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: BRYAN PENNINGTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

SUBJECT: CRENSHAW/LAX PROJECT TREE REMOVAL PERMIT

ISSUE

Pursuant to a Master Cooperative Agreement (“MCA”) with City of Los Angeles (“City”), Metro applied to City Board of Public Works for a tree removal permit in connection with construction of the Crenshaw/LAX Light Rail Transit Project (the “Project”). This permit is required in order to remove or relocate trees on Crenshaw Blvd. between Exposition Blvd. and 67th Street. Metro has worked with City on conditions for issuance of the permit; issuance will allow the Project contractor to proceed with construction of the Project and prevent potential claims for delay damages.

BACKGROUND

The Final Environmental Impact Report for the Project notes that removal of the large mature trees located on Crenshaw medians could adversely affect the character of the boulevard unless mitigated. Replacement or relocation of the trees to be removed as part of the Project was identified as a mitigation measure for the visual impact of tree removal. As required by the MCA with City, in February 2014, Metro applied for a permit from City Board of Public Works in order remove trees on Crenshaw Blvd. that are in the critical path of the Project. Some of these trees will be relocated. On April 11, 2014, City Council approved a motion to designate certain trees on MLK Jr., Leimert and Degnan Blvds. as historic/cultural monuments, but did not include trees on Crenshaw Blvd. in this designation. The Board of Public Works meets Friday, April 18, 2014 to consider issuance of the tree removal permit for trees on Crenshaw Blvd. The following conditions apply:

1. Metro shall replace removed trees which are not relocated at a 2:1 ratio and up to a 4:1 ratio between Exposition Blvd and 67th Street. Replacement trees shall only be planted along Crenshaw Boulevard between Exposition Boulevard and

67th Street or where construction related to the Project is occurring. Replacement trees to be 24" box trees unless 36" box trees can be accommodated without impinging on underground utilities, ADA-compliant sidewalk widths or other barriers to planting the larger size box trees. Tree species and actual locations shall be determined in consultation with the City Bureau of Street Services prior to Project completion.

2. Metro shall irrigate all replacement trees for a tree establishment period of three years, and work with City to find funding to add an additional year of irrigation; Metro's irrigation timeline responsibilities for each tree to commence upon planting of each tree.
3. Metro's Contractor will pave and repair curbs and sidewalks between Vernon Station and 67th Street if and to the extent that curbs and sidewalks in this area are damaged by construction of the Project. Metro will not repair or pave for pre-existing conditions.
4. Metro shall develop a temporary landscape maintenance plan for the area within the Project footprint near the construction staging area fences where temporary landscaping is feasible. This temporary landscape plan will be implemented during construction in conjunction with and pursuant to the construction schedule. Metro shall provide screening for fences around all construction work areas along Crenshaw Blvd. All elements of the temporary landscape maintenance plan will be presented to stakeholders in the construction corridor for comment.
5. Metro shall develop and implement a Project construction parking plan that will be designed to maintain access to business parking lots during construction of the Project. Metro's Project construction parking plan will be presented to stakeholders in the Project construction corridor for comment.
6. The Project contractor will develop Project traffic control plans in conjunction with construction work plans, which shall be submitted for City approval. Haul routes shall be developed and presented to stakeholders in the construction corridor for comment in conjunction with and pursuant to the construction schedule.
7. Metro shall repair and/or replace curbs, repave roadway, and repair sidewalks within the Project footprint, if and to the extent that they are damaged by construction of the Project. Metro will not repair pre-existing conditions.
8. Metro shall maintain all sidewalks and streets impacted by construction of the Project in a clean and safe manner throughout the construction period.

9. Metro shall remove within twenty-four (24) hours any and all graffiti at Project staging and construction sites along Crenshaw Blvd.
10. Where relocated bus stops will be in place for at least six (6) months, Metro, and City where applicable, shall match the original bus stops' amenities in accordance with their respective ownership interest in the amenities. Such installations shall be subject to ADA requirements and also follow existing City guidelines.
11. Safety training will be conducted by Metro for neighborhood groups and schools related to both construction and operation of the rail line, with the former occurring during construction and the latter commencing one year prior to the start of the operation of the rail line.

Upon City's issuance of the tree removal permit, the Project will proceed without further delay or potential claims for delay damages from the contractor arising from issuance of the tree removal permits.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will work with City to obtain issuance of the tree removal permit for the Project, attend the Board of Public Works meeting where the permit will be considered, and inform Metro Board Directors in the next Project status update of the outcome of the meeting.