



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel  
metro.net

**June 16, 2014**

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**FROM: GREGORY G. KILDARE**   
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**ENTERPRISE RISK AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT**

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO FEBRUARY 2014 BOARD MOTION 70 FROM DIRECTORS YAROSLAVSKY AND KREKORIAN REGARDING PROPOSED SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS AT RED LINE PARKING LOTS**

**ISSUE**

At the February Board meeting, Directors Yaroslavsky and Krekorian made a motion directing staff to evaluate the adequacy of existing lighting conditions at two Metro Red Line (MRL) parking lots, and an overflow parking lot. The motion also directed staff to evaluate the safety of a pedestrian path leading to/from the overflow parking lot that crosses an I-101 South freeway on-ramp. The motion further directed staff to implement any potential safety improvements that can be made by the agency on its own, and coordinate with third parties to implement improvements that are under their jurisdiction and control.

**DISCUSSION**

The parking lots at the Universal City/Studio City station (Lot 1) and the North Hollywood station (Lot 2) are owned by Metro. There is an overflow lot (Lot 3) at the intersection of Ventura Boulevard and Campo de Cahuenga, in close proximity to the Universal City/Studio City station, which is owned by the County of Los Angeles (County). This location is used by Metro Red Line patrons as an overflow parking option. A second smaller overflow lot (Lot 4) at the intersection of the Ventura Boulevard and Lankershim Boulevard, owned by Caltrans, is also used by patrons of the Metro Red Line. Although this second lot was not part of the motion, staff included it for our evaluation.

The primary path, maintained by the City of Los Angeles (City), between the Universal City/Studio City station and the two overflow lots is on a sidewalk that for a short distance crosses under a bridge (See Attachment A). A less-used secondary path through a pedestrian tunnel is owned and maintained by the City.

In order to access the overflow parking lot at the intersection of Ventura Boulevard and Campo de Cahuenga Boulevard, patrons must cross an on-ramp to the 101 South freeway. The pedestrian crosswalk across this on-ramp, which is controlled and maintained jointly by the City and Caltrans, has no signal, just like many other on-ramp crosswalks.

In response to this motion, Corporate Safety, Countywide Planning, Facilities Maintenance and our Engineering group performed a series of actions to address the concerns in the motion which are described below.

First, staff measured the existing lighting levels at the above four parking lots and along the pathways to establish the baseline conditions. The results indicate that the lighting levels in the overflow lots and certain areas of the Universal City/Studio City parking lot, do not meet Metro's current design criteria which have progressively required more lighting since the lot was constructed.

In an effort to maintain the required lighting, staff recently cleaned and serviced approximately 70 lighting fixtures at the two Red Line station parking lots to make sure they are all lit. Second, staff conducted a photometric analysis to determine the extent of additional lighting that is required to comply with our current design criteria for Lot 1. Based on staff's estimate, this improvement would cost \$780,000 (Attachment B lists details of the needed enhancements for Lot 1).

As far as lighting along the pathways is concerned, with the exception of the small portion of City property underneath the bridge and the pedestrian tunnel, the lighting level along all pathways, and the lighting level at the crossing of the on-ramp was determined to exceed the required minimum current requirements.

In addition to measuring the lighting levels, staff held meetings with the City, Caltrans, and County to discuss various options that would address the concerns raised in the motion. Caltrans provided two options to improve the pedestrian crosswalk, each costing approximately \$120,000 to implement. One option involves designing and constructing an angled crosswalk to provide better visibility of pedestrians to motorists approaching the on-ramp. This option also includes reconstruction of an ADA ramp, construction of an intermediate island, and installation of signs and pavement markings. A second option presented by Caltrans is to design and install a crosswalk with a pedestrian crossing signal. This option would however, require Caltrans to conduct pedestrian counts to determine if such a signal was warranted based on their standards. Furthermore, they would have to obtain concurrence from LADOT for the installation of such a signal. Similar to the first option, this one would also include the installation of advance warning static signs along Ventura and pavement markings in the roadway. Caltrans is willing to perform this work at Metro's expense. In the interim, the City agreed to implement, at Metro's expense, short term signage improvements for the crosswalk which would cost about \$5,000.

The City also conducted lighting measurements under the bridge and in the pedestrian tunnel near the Universal City/Studio City station, and based on their results, the City has

confirmed that the existing light levels met their standards when constructed. In order to bring the lighting levels to current City standards, with the use of LED type lights, they estimate this enhancement to cost \$25,000 for the lights under the 101 Freeway and \$25,000 for the lights in the pedestrian tunnel. The City is willing to perform this lighting upgrade at Metro's expense.

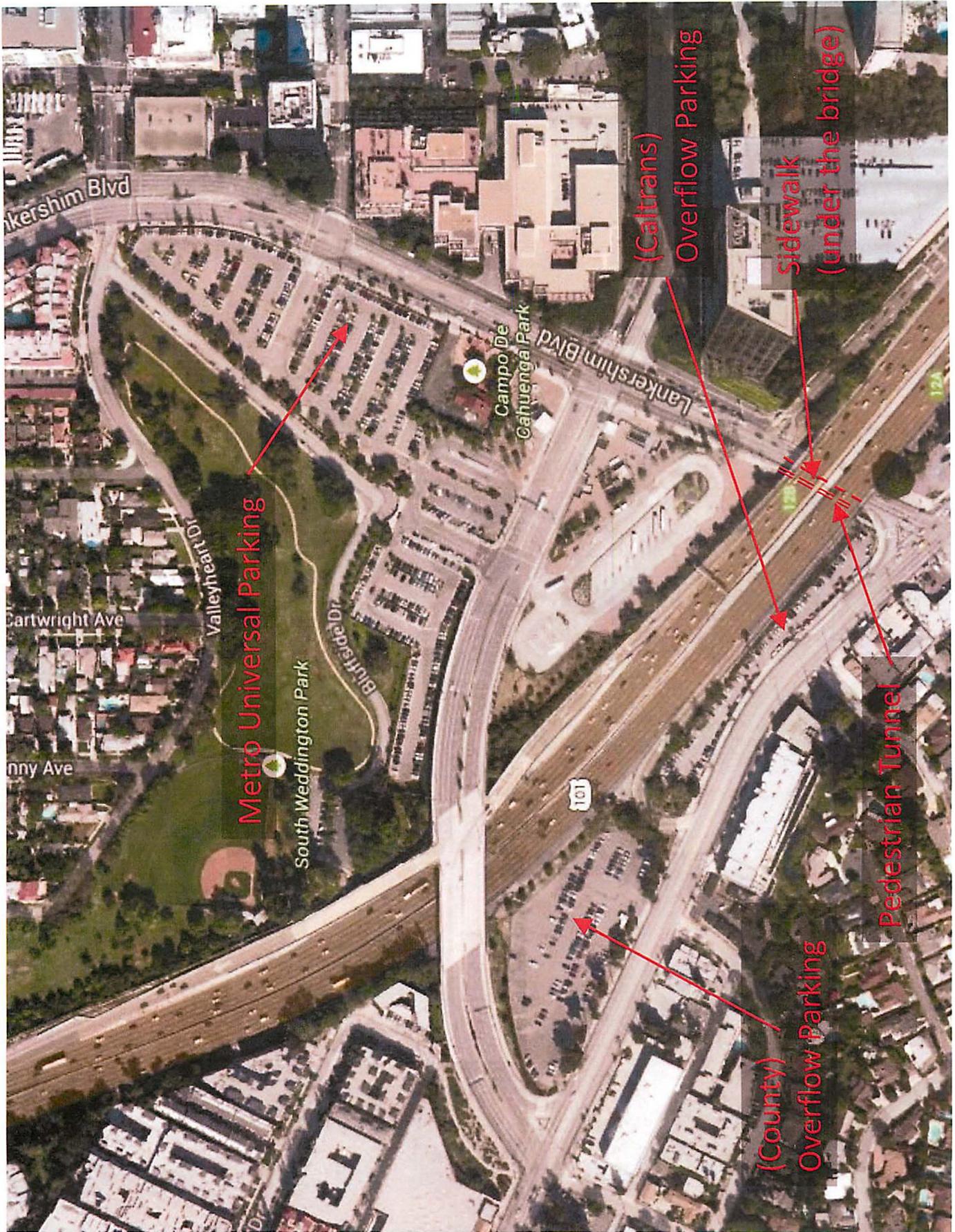
Metro has performed a preliminary photometric analysis of light levels in the County "overflow" lot (Lot 3) and determined that in certain areas of the lot the light levels are lower than our current standards. Based on discussions with the County, this property is scheduled for development in the near future. Therefore, the County is not willing to improve the lighting. However, the County is willing to assist Metro, at our cost, by defining the required lighting that meets their standards. This cost is estimated to be \$25,000. Upon completion of this definition document, Metro will prepare a cost estimate for design and construction to implement the lighting at our cost.

Although the Caltrans lot (Lot 4) was not brought up in the motion, staff also discussed the option with the City to add additional lighting from the street side to cover the low levels of light in this parking lot. Based on options discussed, the City estimates \$120,000 to install new street lights along Ventura with dual cantilever arms.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will proceed with designing the necessary lighting improvements at the Universal City/Studio City parking lot, and with identifying a funding source to implement the enhancement.

An integrated team of Planning, Safety, Engineering, Finance and Operations staff are evaluating whether we will fund the \$120,000 for Caltrans to improve the crosswalk across the on-ramp, \$5,000 for LADOT to implement short term signage at the Caltrans onramp, \$50,000 for City to improve the lighting under the bridge and in the pedestrian tunnel, \$120,000 for City to improve lighting along Ventura to enhance low level lighting in the Caltrans overflow lot and an initial \$25,000 for County to proceed with defining the minimum lighting requirements in accordance with their design standards.



## COST ESTIMATE

| DESCRIPTION        | MATERIAL   | LABOR      | EQUIPMENT   | QUANTITY     | UNIT | TOTAL        |
|--------------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------|--------------|
| DEMOLITION         |            | \$5,000.00 | \$15,000.00 | 1            | EA   | \$20,000.00  |
| TEMPORARY LIGHTING |            | \$5,000.00 | \$15,000.00 | 1            | EA   | \$20,000.00  |
| LIGHT POLES        | \$6,000.00 | \$4,000.00 | \$2,000.00  | 20           | EA   | \$240,000.00 |
| SITE WORK          | \$3,000.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$3,000.00  | 20           | EA   | \$160,000.00 |
| REPLACE LIGHTS     | \$1,000.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$1,000.00  | 35           | EA   | \$140,000.00 |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>    |            |            |             |              |      | \$580,000.00 |
| <b>CONTINGENCY</b> |            |            |             |              |      | \$116,000.00 |
| <b>SOFT COST</b>   |            |            |             |              |      | \$87,000.00  |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>    |            |            |             |              |      | \$203,000.00 |
|                    |            |            |             | <b>TOTAL</b> |      | \$783,000.00 |