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Metropolitan Transportation Authority


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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ARTHUR T. LEAHY 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: NOELIA RODRIGUEZ 
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

SUBJECT: WESTSIDE PURPLE LINE EXTENSION – SECTION 2

ISSUE

This report is being provided in order to keep the Board of Directors informed of recent developments regarding Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension. Consistent with our Board approved New Starts policy and the Long Range Transportation Plan, and with the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Metro has an opportunity to begin a productive dialogue regarding implementation of Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension.

DISCUSSION

Our agency currently has an opportunity to work with the USDOT on matters related to Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension. This work includes the steps needed to secure New Starts funds and a low interest Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan for the project. In addition to this document, we will be briefing the Board of Directors on this matter in the coming weeks. We will also bring a report to the Board of Directors for its consideration in September 2014 that will include a draft financial plan, in addition to a Letter of Interest seeking a TIFIA loan (to be repaid with Measure R) for Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension.

NEXT STEPS

There are three discreet steps that would need to be advanced in order to begin the process of seeking federal New Starts funds and a low interest TIFIA loan for Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension.

The first step would be to send correspondence to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) seeking permission to enter into the engineering phase for the project. We are in the process of compiling the necessary information to submit such a request to the

FTA, as required under the MAP-21 New Starts process. This information includes the project definition, cost estimate, schedule, Project Management Plan and other relevant information necessary for FTA to evaluate the project's readiness to enter engineering. We anticipate that this request to enter into engineering will be submitted to FTA in July 2014.

The second step would be to submit, after Board approval, a draft financial plan for Section 2 of the Purple Line Extension to the FTA. Specifically, we would target submittal of a New Starts Financial Plan to the FTA in late September 2014. The New Starts Financial Plan would be used by the FTA to evaluate Metro's financial capacity to build and operate Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension. This project was originally scheduled for delivery in calendar year 2027 in the Long Range Transportation Plan. This request to the FTA is consistent with delivery in calendar year 2024 if there are no delays in receiving approval of the amended or new Full Funding Grant Agreement and TIFIA Loan.

The final step to advance this issue would be to submit, after Board approval, a Letter of Interest to the USDOT for a TIFIA loan for Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension. We would target submittal of a TIFIA loan Letter of Interest in late September 2014. The TIFIA Letter of Interest will be used by the USDOT's TIFIA Office to evaluate Metro's financial capacity to build and repay a loan for up to one third of the cost for Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension.