



Metro


Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority


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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ARTHUR T. LEAHY 
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: DAVID YALE 
MANAGING EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COUNTYWIDE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

RAFFI HAMPARIAN 
DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS

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. As was outlined in a Board Box issued on June 23, 2014, our agency has an opportunity to submit a proposal for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) annual Capital Investment Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2016 for Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension. It is anticipated that this opportunity may result in securing over \$1 billion in federal New Starts funds for this transit project.

DISCUSSION

As shared with all Board members earlier this month, on August 11, 2014 our agency submitted a letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) seeking approval to enter in the Engineering phase for the Westside Purple Line Extension Section 2 Project. We are working on a draft financial plan for Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension that would be submitted, with Board approval, to meet the FTA's September 10, 2014 deadline for projects to be considered for inclusion in the annual FTA's Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Investment Grant Program. We are also working on a Letter of Interest seeking a TIFIA loan (to be repaid with Measure R) that would be submitted to the USDOT. These submittals require that we demonstrate adequate expertise and financial capacity to construct and operate the project in the context of our responsibilities for the entire regional transportation system.

NEXT STEPS

In order to be formally entered into the process of seeking federal New Starts funds and a low interest TIFIA loan for Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension, we would need to proceed to formally submit construction and financial plans for the project with the FTA prior to September 10, 2014.

At present, we are endeavoring to submit a financial plan for Section 2 of the Purple Line Extension to the FTA that is consistent with our Long Range Transportation Plan and with FTA's financial capacity requirements. 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 project 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 later this year, after Board approval, a Letter of Interest to the USDOT for a TIFIA loan for Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension. The Letter of Interest would be used by the USDOT's TIFIA Office to evaluate Metro's financial capacity to build and repay a loan for a portion of the cost for Section 2 of the Westside Purple Line Extension.