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April 2, 1996

TO: NICK PATSAOURAS
FROM: JOSEPH E. DREW, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF STAFF ACTIVITIES ON MID-CITY
ALIGNMENT



I wanted to clarify questions you raised at last Thursday's Construction Committee meeting regarding the Metro Red Line Mid-City Segment. We have not made any decisions regarding the Mid-City Segment alignment, nor have we begun any new work efforts without Board discussion. We are coming to the Board in April to outline our recommended next steps for this project and to seek Board approval. As you may recall, last November the Board directed staff to conduct preliminary geological investigations along both a Wilton/Arlington and a Wilshire alignment to see if there would be any "fatal flaws" along these routes. We will bring the results of these investigations to the Board in April.

In preparation for coming to the Board, MTA staff have been gathering information, considering alternative courses of action, and estimating the costs and timing of these actions. Because FTA would need to approve any changes in the project authorized by the Board, we have talked to FTA staff about their likely reaction to us pursuing a Mid-City alignment along Wilton/Arlington rather than along Crenshaw Boulevard. We also discussed their thoughts on studying a Wilshire Boulevard alignment further. We are particularly interested in protecting federal funding participation for Mid-City in the Full Funding Grant Agreement. We have submitted written progress reports to FTA, as required, on the current status of the Mid-City segment. We are also gathering cost and schedule estimates from the Construction Division's engineering and environmental firms for the immediate next steps, should the Board want to pursue an alternative Mid-City alignment.

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Second, we are not taking any money away from Mid-City to fund the East Side extension. Some system-wide costs were originally charged to the Mid-City budget in anticipation of work starting on the original schedule. Since work on the Mid-City segment has been delayed, we are transferring charges (not funds) from the Mid-City budget to the East Side budget.

If you would like to discuss these activities further, please give me a call.

CC: MTA Board Members

CI:C:Mid-City