



Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
90012-2952

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 16, 2002

SUBJECT: EASTSIDE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT

ACTION: AUTHORIZE CEO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TO RECONFIGURE RAMONA OPPORTUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into an agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to reconfigure Ramona Opportunity High School as stated in the Mitigation Monitoring Plan (MMP) for the Eastside Light Rail Transit Project, which includes the basic terms and agreements as outlined in Attachment A, for an amount not to exceed \$20 million.

ISSUE

On February 28, 2002, the MTA Board certified the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Subsequent Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS/SEIR), and adopted the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and the MMP for the Los Angeles Eastside Corridor. As part of the LPA, the MTA must acquire a portion of Ramona Opportunity High School (Attachment B), a 150-student specialty high school located on the northeast corner of 3rd St. and Indiana. To mitigate the acquisition, the MTA committed to funding either reconfiguration of the high school at its existing location or relocation of the high school to another site.

After review of several alternatives, LAUSD has selected the attached reconfiguration alternative (Attachment C). This alternative will allow the school to remain at its current location. LAUSD will conduct the environmental clearances, design, and construction. MTA will perform the real estate acquisition and relocations, and lead in community outreach efforts. A draft agreement is being crafted to address the transfer of property, the use of funding, responsibilities and schedule. Once the agreement has been executed between MTA and LAUSD, LAUSD will initiate environmental clearance and design of the new school.

As stated in the MMP, to mitigate the acquisition of a portion of Ramona Opportunity High School, the MTA is required to fund the relocation or reconfiguration of the High School. Based on analysis of several alternatives, LAUSD has indicated a desire to reconfigure the school on the existing site. The State Department of Education has given initial approval of the reconfiguration alternative selected. The MTA and LAUSD must now develop and execute an agreement whereby the roles and responsibilities, the funding, and the schedule are defined.

NEXT STEPS

Assuming Board approval of the staff recommendation, MTA and LAUSD will finalize an agreement for execution by MTA's CEO. MTA staff will report to the Board at the conclusion of negotiations with LAUSD. Once the agreement is executed, LAUSD will initiate the design and environmental work for the reconfigured high school.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A Basic Terms and Agreements
- B Map of Ramona Opportunity High School
- C Map of Ramona Opportunity High School Reconfiguration

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**Basic Terms and Agreements
For A Memorandum of Agreement between the
Los Angeles Unified School District and the Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority for Reconfiguration of
Ramona Opportunity High School**

- The MTA will provide funding in an amount not to exceed \$20 million for reconfiguration of Ramona Opportunity High School. The final negotiated value will include funds to obtain CEQA and NEPA clearances, environmental testing and clean up needed, design, acquisition, construction, administration, legal work and possibly interim housing. MTA will only fund replacement of facilities that are displaced. Any additional facilities will be funded by LAUSD.
- In exchange for this funding, MTA will receive property needed for the construction and operation of track, station and pedestrian walkways on Indiana St. and a driveway for vehicles from Alma Avenue. to the station site. The driveway may be shared by LAUSD if needed.
- LAUSD will perform the CEQA/NEPA clearances, the environmental testing and clean up needed, the design, the demolition, the construction and the legal work for the project.
- MTA will take lead on Community Outreach in close coordination with LAUSD including informing residents along Alma Avenue.
- MTA will perform the acquisitions and relocations necessary for a reconfiguration once LAUSD has environmentally cleared the project.
- MTA will also process the street vacation requests of Alma Avenue.
- Utility relocations will be performed in coordination with LAUSD.
- MTA will construct a soundwall around the perimeter of the school property where it faces the light rail tracks.
- MTA will develop a mural (art piece) and landscaping that will be implemented on the wall to face the LRT station.
- MTA and LAUSD will continue to work on a schedule that does not delay the Eastside LRT project or a timely rebuilding of Ramona High School.
- Payment schedule will also continue to be negotiated until the final agreement is ready for execution.

Ramona Opportunity High School Reconfiguration

