

# Wilshire Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit Project

## SCOPING MEETING

October 2009



# Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- Provide an overview of the proposed project
- Discuss the new environmental process
- Summarize the project alternatives
- Present the updated study schedule
- **Listen to your comments so they can be considered in developing the Draft Environmental Impact Report**

# Introduction



- **Wilshire Boulevard**
  - Key east/west travel corridor
  - One of the most important transit corridors in Los Angeles County
  - Approximately 93,000 weekday bus boardings
  - Average bus speeds have declined steadily over the past 20 years
- **Project area includes most of Wilshire Boulevard**
  - From just west of downtown Los Angeles to the Santa Monica City line
  - Excludes the City of Beverly Hills
- **Metro has commenced work on an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA)**

# Participating Agencies

- **Planning and Design**
  - City of Los Angeles
  - County of Los Angeles
  - Metro
- **Construction**
  - City of Los Angeles
  - Los Angeles County
- **Funding**
  - Federal Transit Administration
  - Metro
  - City of Los Angeles

# Study Background



- **June 2008**
  - Metro, City of Los Angeles, and County of Los Angeles began studying the feasibility of peak period curbside bus lanes on Wilshire Boulevard
  - Metro & City of Los Angeles began Initial Study/ Environmental Assessment (IS/EA)
- **November 2008**
  - Four community meetings were conducted along the Wilshire corridor to present the proposed project and receive public comment

# Study Background (Continued)

- May 2009
  - Decision to elevate IS/EA to an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA)
  - Decision based on:
    - Public input
    - Technical analyses
- July 2009
  - Federal Transit Administration (FTA) determined that an EA is still appropriate to satisfy NEPA requirements

# Proposed Project Overview



- **Bus lanes would:**
  - Operate only during weekday peak periods (7-9 AM & 4-7 PM)
  - In both directions
  - In the curb lane
- **Infrastructure improvements include:**
  - Curb lane repaving/reconstructing
  - Selective street widenings
  - Improved traffic signal timing
  - Improved bus signal priority



# Environmental Process

- **Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment:**
  - Examine Wilshire BRT feasibility
  - Evaluate the environmental, social, and economic issues associated with the proposed project
  - Satisfies both state and federal requirements
- The EIR/EA will evaluate potential impacts related, but not limited to, the following:
  - Traffic & Parking
  - Air Quality
  - Noise
  - Cultural Resources (Architectural, Archaeological, Paleontological)
  - Environmental Justice/Community Impacts
  - Historic Resources/Parklands
- The EIR/EA will also evaluate project alternatives



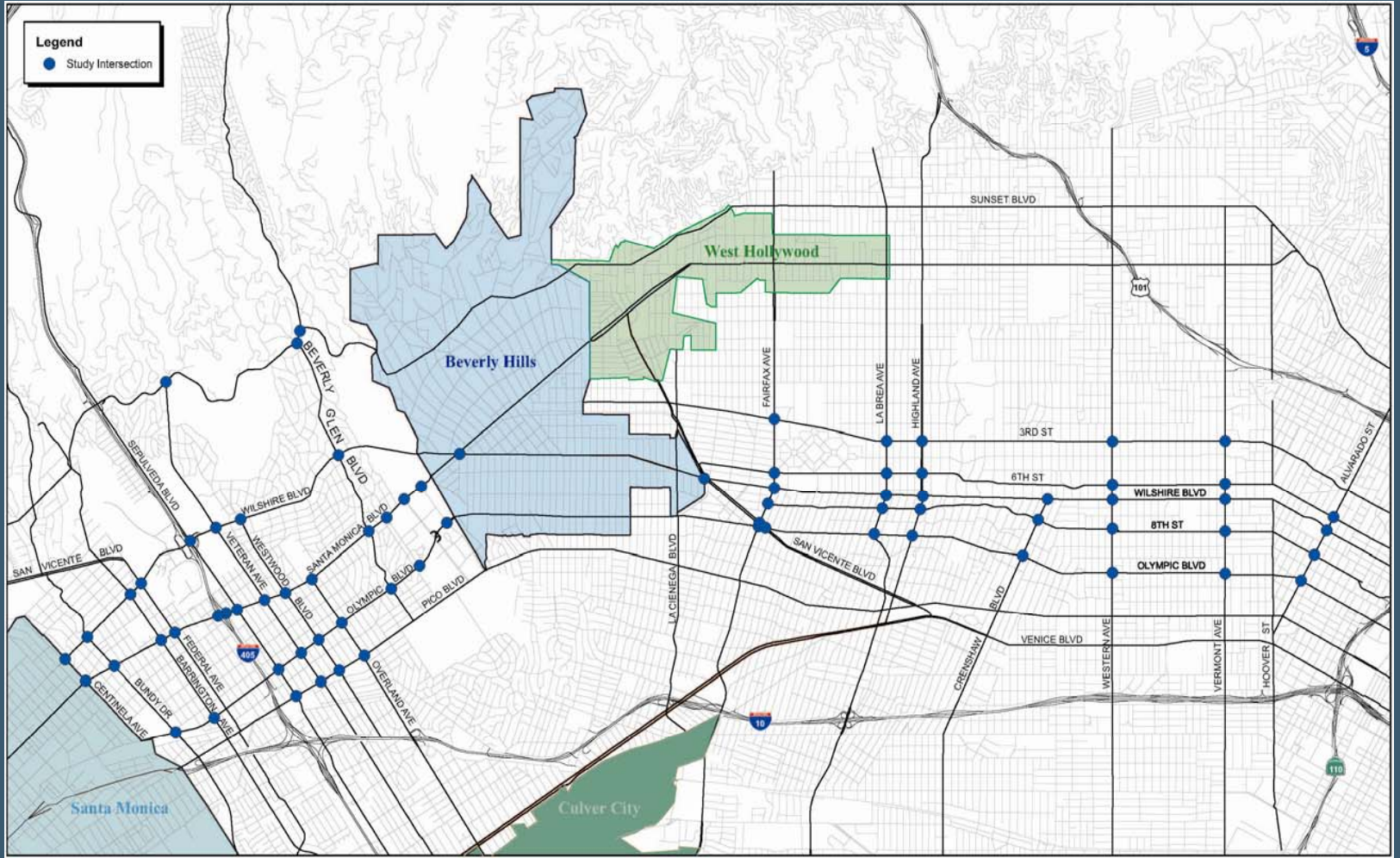


# Traffic Study



- Study intersections:
  - 17 on Wilshire Boulevard
  - 57 on parallel corridors
- For all 74 study intersections:
  - Traffic counts are being collected
  - Future traffic forecasts will be developed
  - Potential impacts on congestion will be identified
- Potential parking impacts will be evaluated

# Traffic Study Intersections

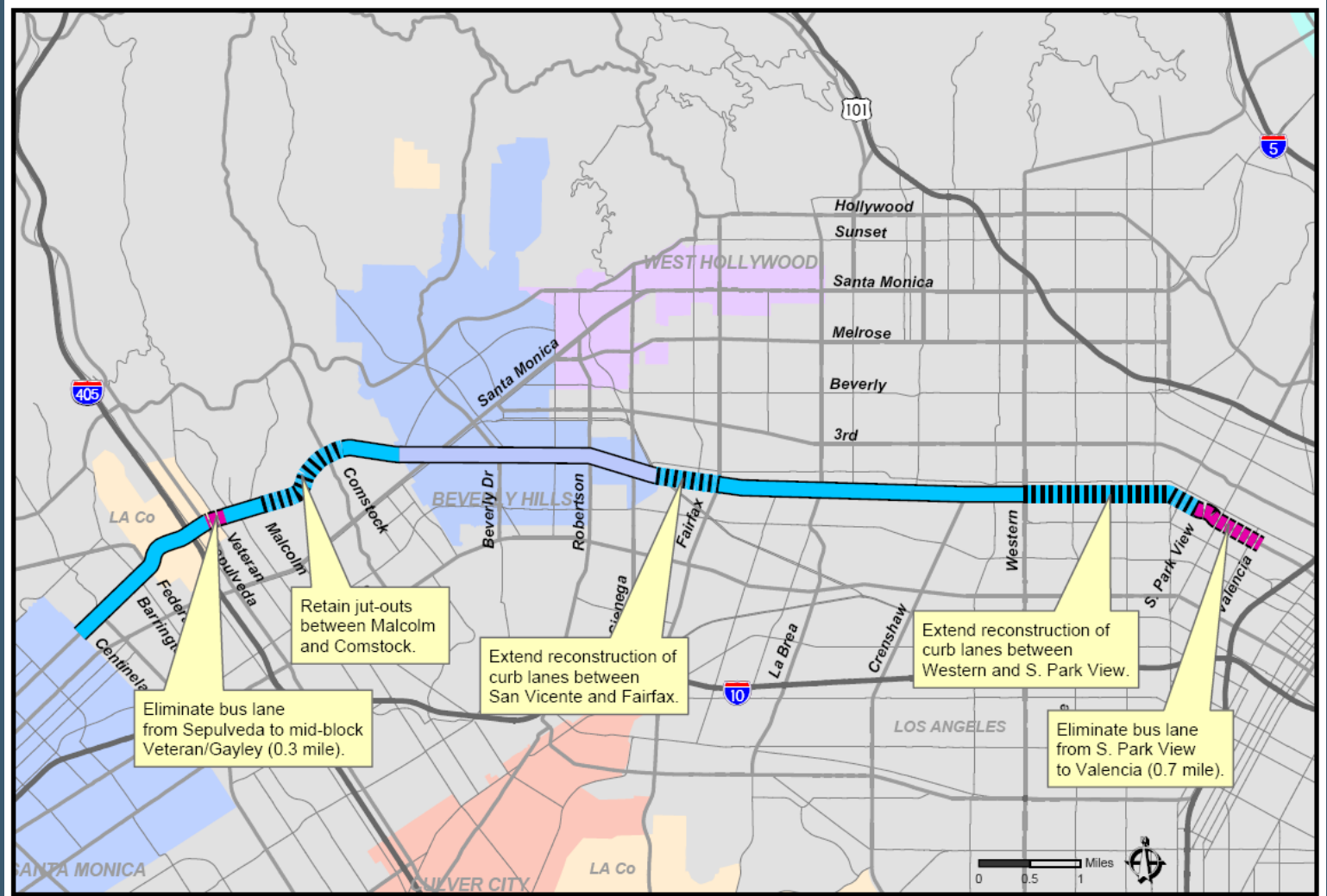


# Project Alternatives



- No Build Alternative
- Proposed Project with the following modifications:
  - Eliminate the bus lane from S. Park View to Valencia (0.7 miles)
  - Eliminate the bus lane from Sepulveda to mid-block Veteran/Gayley (0.3 miles)
  - Between Malcolm and Comstock:
    - Retain all existing “jut-outs”
    - convert existing curbside traffic lanes to weekday peak period bus lanes
  - Extend Wilshire Boulevard street reconstruction from between Fairfax and Western (2.8 miles) to between San Vicente and S. Park View (5.1 miles)

# Project Alternative





# Other Alternatives Considered



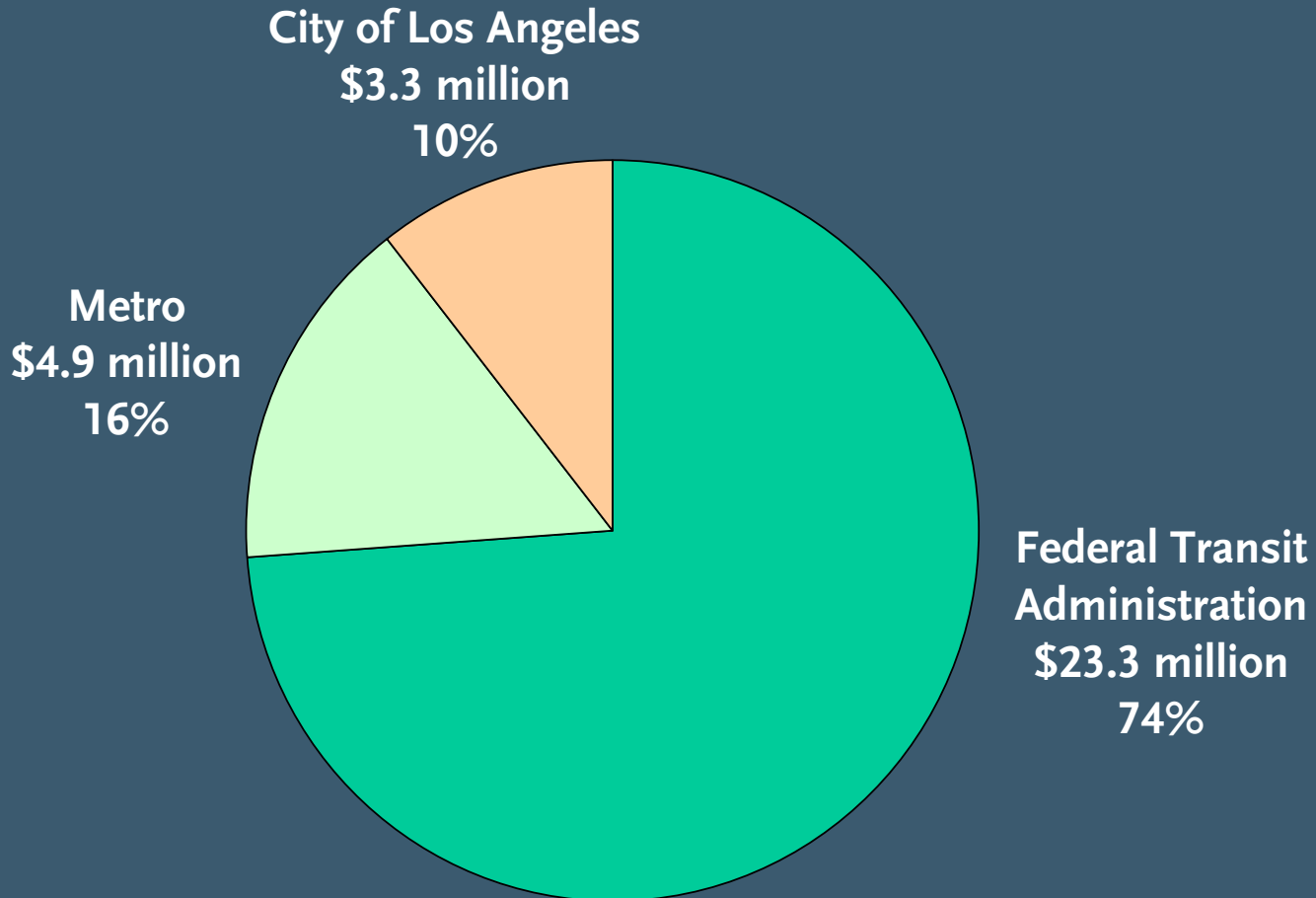
- Proposed Project with the following modifications:
  - Eliminate the bus lane from S. Park View to Valencia (0.7 miles)
  - Eliminate the bus lane from Sepulveda to mid-block Veteran/Gayley (0.3 miles)
  - Not eligible for federal funding
- Mini Bus Lanes
  - Construct approximately 2.5 miles of mini bus lanes in selected segments of Wilshire Boulevard
  - Street improvements and engineering enhancements
  - Not eligible for federal funding

# Project Goals



- Improve bus passenger travel times
- Improve bus service reliability
- Improve traffic flow along Wilshire Boulevard
- Reconstruct the curb lanes along damaged portions of Wilshire Boulevard
- Encourage shift from automobile use to public transit
- Improve air quality
- Minimize impacts to existing parking

# Project Funding



TOTAL PROJECT = \$31.5 million



# Study Schedule



	2009			2010						
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Scoping/Community Meetings	■				■					
Draft Technical Studies		■	■	■						
Draft EIR/EA for Public Review				■	■					
Seek FTA Approval							■			
Metro Board Consideration								■		
Seek LA City/County Approval									■	
Begin Design & Construction										■



# Upcoming Meetings

Monday, October 5

Felicia Mahood Center  
11338 Santa Monica Boulevard

Wednesday, October 7

Wilshire United Methodist Church  
4350 Wilshire Boulevard

Thursday, October 8

Westwood Presbyterian Church  
10822 Wilshire Boulevard

Tuesday, October 13

Good Samaritan Hospital – Moseley-Salvatori Conference Room  
637 Lucas Avenue

All Meetings:  
6:00-8:00 PM

# Contact Us



- Internet: [metro.net/wilshire](http://metro.net/wilshire)
  - Presentation & Other Information
  - Submit Comments
- Phone: (213) 922-2500
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- Please submit comments by October 23, 2009

# Questions & Comments

