



Metro

MARCH 17, 2020

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON PAW
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**SUBJECT: FULL FUNDING GRANT AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR WESTSIDE
PURPLE LINE EXTENSION – SECTION 3**

ISSUE

Earlier today, consistent with my responsibilities and authority as Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), I was pleased to sign the \$1.3 billion Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the Westside Purple Line Extension (WPLE) - via a tele-conference - with the Federal Transit Administration's Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams. The Acting FTA Administrator signed the WPLE Section 3 FFGA yesterday in Washington, DC. The congressional 30-day review period for this FFGA, as mandated by the FAST Act, ended on March 11, 2020. The WPLE Section 3 FFGA is a \$1.3 billion multi-year agreement provided under the 49 USC 5309 New Starts program.

I want to personally thank all Metro Board members and their staffs for their strong and sustained support as we have worked together to advance an unprecedented four active FFGA's for Los Angeles County: the Regional Connector, the WPLE Section 1, WPLE Section 2, and now the WPLE Section 3 projects. I also want to extend my deep appreciation to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris and our entire Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation for championing this project on Capitol Hill for many years. Senator Feinstein's backing of this project, as a senior member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, was essential in this project moving forward in the federal funding pipeline.

Finally, I want to express our agency's heartfelt appreciation to U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, the FTA's Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams, FTA Region IX Administrator Ray Tellis and the Director for the FTA's Region IX Los Angeles office Charlene Lee Lorenzo for working diligently to ensure this FFGA moved forward in a deliberate and effective manner. The FTA, under the sure and steady leadership of Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams, is a big reason this major federal investment has been made. Metro is deeply grateful to Acting Administrator Williams and her outstanding team for their dedication that will bring more mobility to the 10 million residents of Los Angeles County.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Fiscal Year 2020 New Starts Report issued by the FTA provided an overall project rating of Medium-High for the WPLE Section 3 and provided approximately \$500 million in funding for new projects anticipated to enter into Full Funding Grant Agreements. Section 3 of the WPLE would extend this heavy rail line from the future Century City station to the planned Westwood/VA Hospital stations at a total cost of \$3.6 billion.

NEXT STEPS

With an appreciation of the current COVID-19 related emergencies declared by local, state and federal authorities – especially related to prohibitions on gatherings, we will be working with our Board of Directors and the U.S. Department of Transportation to find a suitable future date and time, in Los Angeles County, to hold a ceremonial event marking this FFGA milestone. All Board members and stakeholders will be extended a formal invitation to join with our agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation to celebrate this final federal funding contribution that will complete construction of the Westside Purple Line Extension project.