



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

AUGUST 12, 2011

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ARTHUR T. LEAHY *AL*
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: MARTHA WELBORNE *MW*
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COUNTYWIDE PLANNING

SUBJECT: WILSHIRE BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) PROJECT

ISSUE

This report provides the Board with a status report on the Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit (Wilshire BRT) project since it was last presented to the full Board at the May 26, 2011 meeting.

DISCUSSION

The Wilshire BRT Project is a 12.5 mile project, which seeks to construct a number of general improvements along Wilshire Boulevard from just west of downtown Los Angeles to the Santa Monica city line. At the May 26, 2011 Board meeting, the Board took a number of actions, including adoption of Alternative A-1 (Attachment A), Truncated Project With Reduced Bus Lanes between Comstock Avenue and Selby Avenue, and certification of the Wilshire BRT Revised Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (FEIR/EA). Key components of Alternative A-1 include 7.7 miles of peak period curbside bus lanes, 3.6 miles of curb lane reconstruction and/or resurfacing, selective street widening, and transit priority system enhancements and signage along the project corridor. In areas along Wilshire Boulevard where no bus lanes are implemented, buses would operate with mixed-flow traffic.

Subsequent to the Board action in May 2011, Alternative A-1 was also approved by the Los Angeles City Council on June 14, 2011, followed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on July 5, 2011. Now that all three agencies have approved Alternative A-1, Metro is working towards obtaining a Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and final Federal Transit Administration (FTA) full grant approval. Upon receipt of the FONSI and full grant approval, Metro can begin working with the City and County of Los Angeles on final design and construction of the Wilshire BRT project.

On Friday, August 3, 2011, the FTA awarded a grant in the amount of \$9.7 million in Section 5309 Very Small Starts funds appropriated by Congress (through a Fiscal Year 2009 spending bill) for the Wilshire BRT project. The \$9.7 million is part of the total \$23.3 million in FTA Section 5309 Very Small Starts funds appropriated for the project. The remaining \$13.6 million is anticipated to be granted to Metro sometime in the near future once the FONSI has been issued. In addition, another \$8.2 million will be used as local match, for a total project cost of \$31.5 million.

Staff is currently working with both the City and County of Los Angeles on a revised schedule for the Wilshire BRT project. The preliminary project schedule shows an estimated completion date of fall 2013. In coordination with the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), staff plans on implementing an extensive community outreach program to 1) keep the public apprised of any potential impacts during construction, and 2) provide ample notification of the project's opening so that the public may adjust their travel patterns accordingly. In addition, upon implementation of the Wilshire BRT project, LADOT staff will assist with an active traffic monitoring program in order to make operational adjustments as needed.

NEXT STEPS

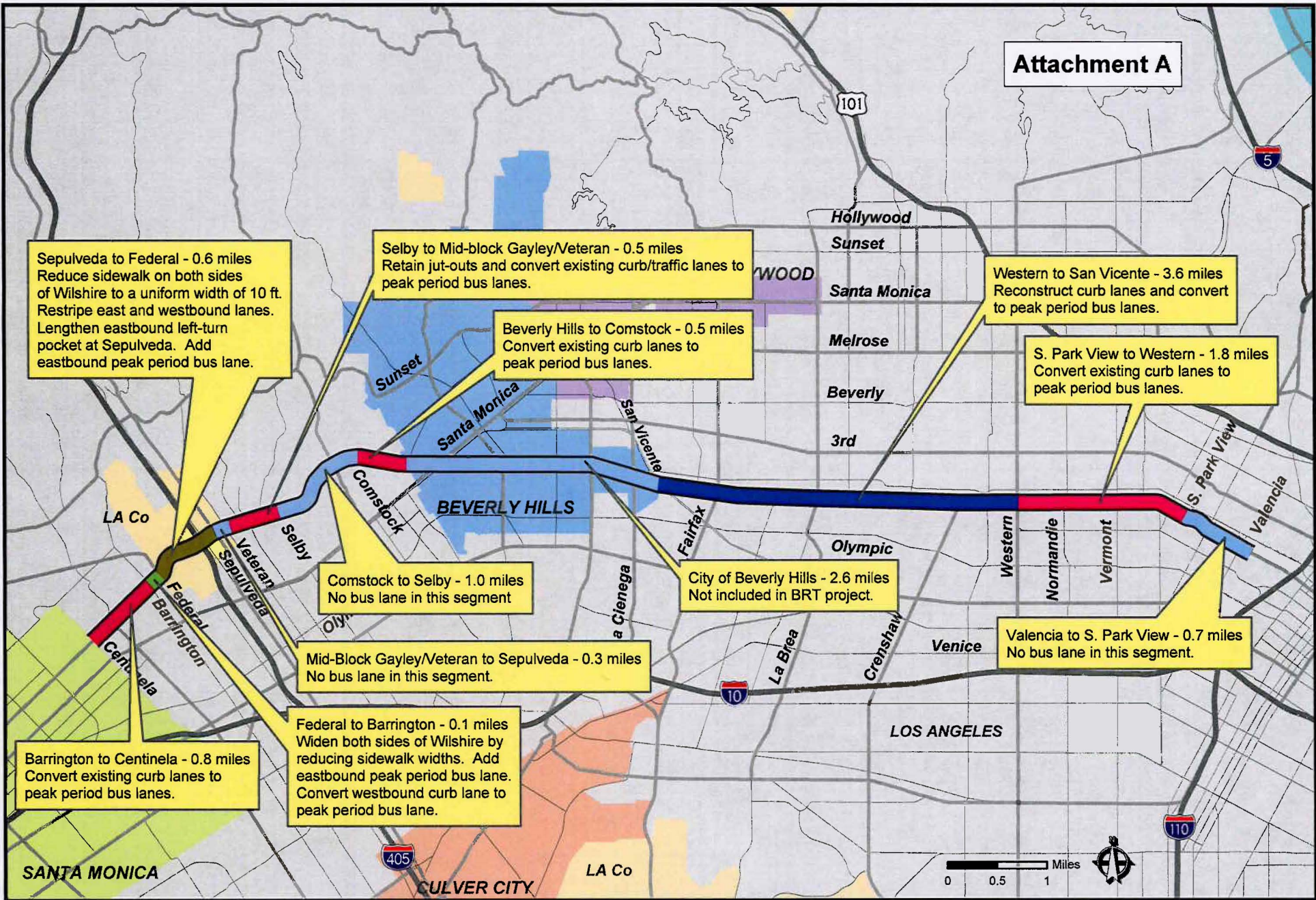
Staff is beginning to prepare draft contract documents with the City and County of Los Angeles for final design and construction of the Wilshire BRT Project components in anticipation of FTA's issuance of the FONSI. Upon receipt of the FONSI, Metro can begin working with the City and County of Los Angeles on final design and construction of the Wilshire BRT project. In addition, in response to a Board request, staff will return to the Board after the first three months of operations and report on the project's status.

ATTACHMENT

A. Map of Alternative A-1

Prepared by: Brad McAllester, Executive Officer, Long Range Planning and
Coordination
Martha Butler, Transportation Planning Manager
Michael Richmai, Transportation Planning Manager

Attachment A



Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project

Project Alternative A-1 -- Reduced Length Bus Lanes Between Comstock Ave. and Selby Ave.