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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 20, 2013**

**SUBJECT: DRAFT FIRST-LAST MILE STRATEGIC PLAN**

**ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file the Draft First-Last Mile Strategic Plan for improving multimodal access to the fixed-guideway transit system.

**ISSUE**

In 2012, the Board adopted the Countywide Sustainability Planning Policy and Implementation Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Joint Work Program both of which direct staff to develop a First-Last Mile Strategic Plan. The goal of this plan is to better coordinate infrastructure investments in station areas to extend the reach of transit, with the ultimate goal of increasing ridership. In developing this plan over the last 14 months, we have conducted analysis, engaged stakeholders through a technical advisory committee, and developed a set of draft planning guidelines that constitute the Draft First-Last Mile Strategic Plan. The Draft First-Last Mile Strategic Plan (Attachment A) is attached for review and consideration, in advance of broader outreach and engagement with stakeholders in the upcoming months. Outreach efforts will inform the refinement of the planning guidelines, as well as support the development of an implementation strategy to be included in the final plan. We anticipate seeking Board approval of the First-Last Mile Strategic Plan in the third quarter of this fiscal year.

**DISCUSSION**

Metro is developing a world-class rail system with stations that will be a short distance (three miles or less) from the homes of 7.8 million people, nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents. Over time, this number will continue to grow as cities modify their land-use plans to provide more housing and jobs near stations, consistent with market demand and regional goals for more sustainable communities. In order to maximize the mobility benefits of the transit system, Metro seeks to attract new patrons to the expanding rail system and improve the transit experience for existing customers. Bridging the “first-last mile” gap by making it easy, safe and efficient to get *to* and *from* stations is critical to meeting this goal.

## Background

Metro and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) jointly funded the development of a First-Last Mile Strategic Plan to explore barriers and outline the opportunities for improving station access through a coordinated infrastructure improvement strategy. The planning process has included:

- Conducting a general assessment of the impact of planned transit expansion, land-use changes, demographic changes, technology trends and other variables on transit access patterns;
- Analyzing Metro's 2011 On-Board Survey to understand existing transit user travel patterns to and from stations;
- Conducting case-study analyses at 12 prototypical transit stops across the county to identify barriers to access;
- Reviewing best practices for improving station access; and
- Developing a set of planning guidelines for the transit catchment area as a resource for Metro and partner agencies.

The planning process has been guided by a technical advisory committee, whose members consist of Metro staff from various departments (Countywide Planning, Real-Estate, Service Planning, Rail Operations, Transit Operations, Marketing and Communications and Highways) with expertise in all modes of station access (bus, bicycle, pedestrian, auto) as well as planners, engineers, and stakeholders from local agencies, non-profit groups, and academic institutions. Attachment B contains the TAC membership agencies. The Draft First-Last Mile Strategic Plan was reviewed and endorsed by the project technical advisory committee on October 30, 2013.

## Strategic Plan

The First-Last Mile Strategic Plan is intended to serve as a resource for Metro, local agencies, and private partners seeking to align transportation plans, funding programs, land-use policies, and/or business models with Metro's investments in the fixed-guideway system. The Plan provides a direction for systematically addressing the first-last mile challenge, which will support Metro and its partners when seeking grant funding for station area improvements. We also intend to use the guidance and methodologies described in the Plan to inform the development of the Countywide Active Transportation Strategic Plan.

The Draft First-Last Mile Strategic Plan formulates a network of multi-modal routes in the transit catchment areas that connect transit patrons to common destinations (i.e., high-density residential and employment centers) and intermodal facilities such as bus stops, regional bike networks, car-share or bike share stations, and parking lots. These multi-modal networks are referred to as the Path. The Path extends the reach of transit and increases ridership by expanding transit access sheds around stations, and improving the transit user experience. The network is comprised of "Path Arterials" and "Path Collectors" which extend one-half mile from the transit stations and include a series of components (transportation facilities, technologies, and amenities) that reduce the travel time and enhance a patron's experience when accessing rail. The Plan lays out the analytical process for identifying Path networks and includes a "toolkit" of

aspirations. It encourages the development, through a future effort, of a more detailed set of common and recognizable systemwide elements (i.e. wayfinding) that better directs transit riders more safely and efficiently to fixed guide-way stations.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The Draft First Last Mile Strategic Plan will be posted on Metro's website on November 25, 2013. Public comments will be accepted by email ([sustainableplanning@metro.net](mailto:sustainableplanning@metro.net)) or mail through February 15, 2014. Over the next few weeks, we will present the Plan to subregional and local agencies for review and feedback. Concurrently, we will develop and seek input on an implementation strategy for Metro and its partners. This will be incorporated in the final plan to be brought to the Board for approval in the third quarter.

### **ATTACHMENT**

A. Draft First-Mile Strategic Plan

[http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB\\_Attachments/131108\\_DRAFT\\_First\\_Last\\_Mile\\_Strategic\\_Plan.pdf](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/131108_DRAFT_First_Last_Mile_Strategic_Plan.pdf)

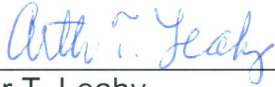
B. First Last Mile Strategic Plan TAC Agencies

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<b>Agencies</b>		
Metro	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	
City of Redondo Beach	Living Streets LA	
SCAG	Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition	
UCLA	City of Lancaster	
County of Los Angeles	Safe Routes to School	
City of Long Beach	LA Walks	
City of Malibu	Metrolink	
NRDC	FAST	
City of Santa Monica	Move LA	
University of Southern California	City of Los Angeles	
City of Pasadena	City of Burbank	
Global Green		

