



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel  
metro.net

AUGUST 25, 2016

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON** PAW  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**FROM: THERESE W. MCMILLAN** TW  
**CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH TRANSIT CORRIDOR –  
SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED COMMUNITIES**

### ISSUE

In February 2016, the Board directed that a budget (not to exceed \$18 million) be allocated for the purpose of pursuing Sustainable Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) predevelopment and planning activities for the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) Transit Corridor. This report provides an update on recent efforts accomplished in coordination with the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) and the Eco-Rapid Transit Joint Power Authority (JPA) in response to this directive.

### BACKGROUND

#### Near-term Project Activities

In April 2016, the Board authorized entering into a \$230,000 Funding Agreement (FA) for the WSAB Transit Corridor – Sustainable TOC predevelopment and planning activities with the Gateway Cities COG, to be led by the Eco-Rapid Transit JPA for near-term project activities. The FA was executed with the Gateway Cities COG in June 2016 and work has been initiated. The scope of work includes:

- 1) Develop a detailed scope of work and attendant staffing support plan for long-term Sustainable TOC along the WSAB Transit Corridor, which would be the basis for all funding assigned against the “up to \$18 million” provision in the February 2016 motion. This would include any successful grant applications made to date;
- 2) Conduct Conceptual Land Use Planning Studies for three southern station areas (City of Cerritos - 183<sup>rd</sup>/Gridley Street, Cities of Paramount and South Gate – Freeway I-105/Metro Green Line and City of Paramount - Paramount Boulevard/Rosecrans Avenue), and a Visioning Planning Study with the City of Vernon for its station. Community engagements are part of the effort;
- 3) Develop Parking Management Guidelines as a technical supplement for the environmental document;

- 4) Identify criteria and methodology for working with the corridor cities to identify potential sites for a rail storage and maintenance facility to be cleared as part of the environmental document; and
- 5) Project Management/Administration for the above scope elements.

#### Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Transit-Oriented Development Planning (TOD) Pilot Program

In April 2016, the FTA announced the solicitation of project proposals for its TOD Planning Pilot Program. In June 2016, Metro, in partnership with the City of South Gate and the Eco-Rapid Transit JPA, submitted a \$2.5 million (\$2 million from FTA with Metro providing the \$500,000 local match) grant application for the WSAB Transit Corridor TOD Strategic Implementation Plan. The proposed Implementation Plan will provide a holistic TOD-corridor strategy for the 13 cities within and adjacent to the WSAB corridor. We anticipate FTA's announcement of successful applicants in the Fall.

#### State Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 3 Application

In June 2016, Metro, provided grant writing assistance to the City of South Gate and the Eco-Rapid Transit JPA for their \$500,000 application for the State's ATP Cycle 3 for the WSAB Active Transportation Plan. The proposed Plan will analyze barriers to accessibility by transit, walking and biking along key corridors that are up to three miles from 10 WSAB proposed station and transit hub sites. The proposed Plan will also identify corridors for improvement by connecting origins, destinations and residential neighborhoods to proposed station and transit hub sites and other destinations. We anticipate announcement of successful applicants in the Fall.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The procurement process is underway for the WSAB 20-mile corridor environmental clearance and supporting outreach. Board approval of both contracts is scheduled for September 2016.

Staff will continue working with the Eco-Rapid Transit JPA on the near-term scope elements. It is important to note that major progress going forward pivots on the completion of the very first step outlined-- development of a detailed scope of work for long-term Sustainable TOC along the WSAB Transit Corridor. That TOC focus was the clear, stated intent of the February 2016 motion. Among other considerations, the nature and scope of TOC activities hinges on the mode identified and funded for the corridor. That currently is anticipated to be Light Rail, if the voters pass Measure M in November. Without Measure funding, the corridor's feasible and fundable transit investment would need to be reassessed, beginning with the much lower funding committed in Measure R. Thus, staff anticipates that any work scope coming from the Eco-rapid JPA will need to take these considerations into account; likewise meaningful, additional grant efforts will benefit greatly from that information.

We will keep the Board posted on our progress.