

MOTION

BUDGET & FINANCE

With the construction of the new 6th Street Bridge, the Arts District in Downtown Los Angeles has seen immense growth. What was once an industrial neighborhood has become a vibrant walking and biking community with new businesses and residential properties. While the growth is welcome, the neighborhood was not designed to be pedestrian or bicycle friendly.

The Bureau of Engineering is also constructing the new \$482 million dollar 6th Street Viaduct Replacement Project between Boyle Heights and the Arts District. Under the new viaduct, the \$28 million 6th Street Park, Arts, River, and Connectivity (PARC) Improvements Project will be constructed. The PARC will be comprised of a 12 acre park underneath the viaduct that will include amenities such as an Arts Plaza, dog park, athletic facilities, and connections to the future LA River Bike Path. Moreover, the City also received \$25 million dollars in grant funding to make first/last mile improvements between the new viaduct and the surrounding communities.

As a result of an increase in developments, new recreational facilities, and improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities, the neighborhood is in need of a mass transit portal in order to get people to and from the Arts District. In response to this demand, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board approved a motion (Garcetti – Solis – Bonin - Dupont-Walker) in 2017 that instructed Metro staff to design the proposed Division 20 Portal Widening and Turnback Facility Project in a manner that would not preclude a future 6th Street/Arts District Metro Station. Metro has proceeded to redesign their project in a way to ensure that a future station can be constructed as easily as possible.

Moving the station forward requires the initiation of environmental clearance and pre-design activities. Metro has committed to initiating the environmental clearance process as soon as funding has been secured by the Department of Transportation. The plan is to use future traffic mitigation and development fees in the Arts District, however, funding is needed immediately to begin the environmental process. Once this process is completed, it is expected that Metro and the City will seek outside funds for the construction of the station.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council AUTHORIZE the Controller to transfer \$500,000 from Proposition A Fund 385, Department 94 Account 94P399 "Reserve for Future Transit Service" to a new account entitled "6th Street/Arts District Metro Station" and use the funds to reimburse Metro upon review and approval of project expenditures associated with the environmental clearance and pre-design activities of the 6th Street/Arts District Metro Station; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Department of Transportation to deposit \$500,000 in future Arts District traffic mitigation and development fees into the Proposition A Fund 385 Account 94P399 "Reserve for Future Transit Service" to offset the costs related to the environmental clearance and pre-design of the proposed 6th Street/Arts District Metro Station; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council AUTHORIZE the Department of Transportation and the City Attorney, to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to fund environmental clearance and design costs related to the 6th Street/Arts District Metro Station, and present the draft MOU to the Council for approval.

PRESENTED BY: 
JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: 

MAY 15 2018

msr



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