



Board Report

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PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 18, 2015

SUBJECT: EASTSIDE PHASE 2 UPDATE

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE AND FILE report in response to the Metro Board July 23, 2015 directive to provide bi-monthly updates on the **Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Technical Study and Community Outreach**.

ISSUE

In November 2014, the Board received the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/EIR) and approved carrying forward two build alternatives, the SR 60 North Side Design Variation (NSDV) and the Washington Boulevard Alternatives into further study. Staff was directed to address comments received from Cooperating and Public Agencies, identify an alternative to Washington Blvd. via Garfield Alternative and analyze the feasibility of operating both alternatives.

At the July 23, 2015 meeting, the Board approved Contract Modification No. 12 for the Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project, Alternatives Analysis (AA), Environmental Clearance, and Conceptual Engineering Consultant Services to undertake this work effort and Contract Modification No. 11 for community outreach in support of the Technical Study. With the approval of the contract modifications, the Board directed staff to provide bi-monthly updates on: (1) the project's contractual scope of work and description of the task order for the technical study; (2) the project's schedule and milestones for both the technical analysis and environmental planning process for all alternatives under consideration and study; and (3) bi-monthly updates on the project's schedule, progress reports and community outreach schedule and meeting results, including concerns raised by stakeholders (Attachment A). This report provides the requested bi-monthly update in response to the Board's direction.

DISCUSSION

Contractual Scope of Work

The technical scope consists of three major work elements: investigations to address comments raised by Cooperating and Participating Agencies on the Draft EIS/EIR, identification of an alternative

connection to Washington Blvd, and a feasibility assessment of operating both alternatives. The technical study also includes a cost containment strategy that identifies potential phasing options. The outreach scope consists of regular engagement with project stakeholders, including the SR 60 and Washington Boulevard Coalitions, and providing updates to the communities in the project area.

Project Schedule and Milestones

The major work elements described above will result in several key project milestones summarized below.

Key Milestones	Target Completion
New Alternative Connection to Washington Blvd	Q2 FY16
Advanced Conceptual Engineering	Q4 FY16
Address Cooperating and Participating Agency Comments	Q4 FY16
Updated Cost Estimates	Q1 FY17
Completion of Technical Study	Q2 FY17
Metro Board Approval of the Technical Study	Q3 FY17
Re-initiation of Environmental Clearance	Q4 FY17
Community Outreach	Ongoing

The Technical Study will respond to comments received from the Cooperating agencies and the November 2014 Board direction. It will also identify any necessary updates to the Draft EIS/EIR. Therefore, environmental clearance can be re-initiated upon Board approval of the Technical Study. Depending upon the results of the Technical Study and the degree of project scope change, the Draft EIS/EIR may require re-circulation. At that time, staff will be able to determine the impact, if any, to the Final EIS/EIR schedule. During the re-initiation, staff will consult with FTA on the environmental path forward.

Progress Report

Since the last Board update, the project team has moved forward with investigations to address comments provided by several Cooperating Agencies, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), Southern California Edison (SCE), and State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Throughout September 2015, staff held consultation kick-off meetings with USACE, USEPA, and Caltrans, and received constructive feedback on the technical approaches proposed. Follow up meetings are currently being scheduled with these agencies.

The Project Team also initiated the identification of potential north-south connections to Washington Blvd. This culminated in a half-day workshop on September 15th with representatives of each member city of the Washington Blvd. Coalition - the Cities of Commerce, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Whittier and Santa Fe Springs. The Workshop provided an opportunity to share information on community plans, better understand community priorities and explore potential connections to Washington Blvd. that best serve community goals. Further technical work is being done on the alternative alignments identified.

Staff continues to meet monthly with both Coalitions to provide updates on the technical work underway, discuss project issues and provide a look-ahead. Both Coalitions met separately with Phil Washington, Metro's CEO, on September 30th to share their perspectives and discuss the path forward for the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 project. Attachment B summarizes progress completed to date and shows that the project is on schedule.

West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) - Eastside Phase 2 Connection Study

The November Board motion directed staff to investigate coordination of potential connectivity that does not preclude integration of the Eastside Phase 2 Transit Corridor with the West Santa Ana Branch (Eco Rapid Transit). Staff completed procurement of consultant services through the Planning Bench and a Notice to Proceed was issued in October 2015. Both study efforts will be closely coordinated going forward.

NEXT STEPS

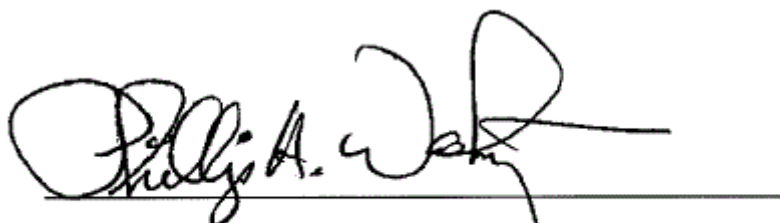
Staff will continue technical work and outreach on the Technical Study and will return to the Board with regular updates. Staff will also be initiating the WSAB Connection Study.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - July Board Motion
Attachment B - Milestone Schedule

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