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**MEASURE R PROJECT DELIVERY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2010**

SUBJECT: SOUTH BAY METRO GREEN LINE EXTENSION

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file this status report on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/EIR) Public Scoping meetings for the South Bay Metro Green Line Extension.

ISSUE

The environmental Public Scoping period for the South Bay Metro Green Line Extension began on April 14, 2010 with the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was also submitted to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to reviewing agencies. The Scoping period officially closed on May 28, 2010. We will continue to accept input throughout the environmental process. This report provides an update on the project's progress.

DISCUSSION

The environmental process is evaluating two Build Alternatives. The Light Rail Alternative is an extension of the existing Metro Green Line light rail transit (LRT) service along the Harbor Subdivision Right-of-Way (ROW) to the proposed Torrance Regional Transit Center (RTC), a distance of 4.6 miles. The Freight Track Alternative provides new rail service on upgraded Harbor Subdivision railroad tracks from Aviation/Century Boulevards to the proposed Torrance RTC using Self-Propelled Railcars (SPR) or Commuter Rail Transit (CRT) technology, a distance of 8.7 miles. Two other options, the No-Build and Transportation Systems Management Alternatives, also are being evaluated. A map of the two build alternatives is shown on Attachment A.

Environmental Scoping

To ensure that affected stakeholders had the opportunity to learn and comment on the project, a comprehensive notification process started in mid-April 2010. The notification process included distribution of meeting notices to all properties within a ¼ mile of either side of the project alignment and on Metro buses and rail lines in the study area. News releases and advertisements, in both English and Spanish, were placed in newspapers serving the South Bay area. In addition, notices were delivered to City Halls, libraries and distributed electronically via email and placed on the project's website and Facebook pages.

Letters also were mailed to 227 government agencies inviting them to be a Participating or Cooperating agency in the environmental clearance process. The letters also requested agencies to provide input on potential concerns or environmental issues under their purview as well as general guidance and comments on the DEIS/EIR. Currently, 28 agencies have accepted invitations to participate in the environmental process and will be invited to be members of the project's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Additional comments and contact information will continue to be collected as the study continues.

Scoping Meetings

We held four Public Scoping meetings along the corridor in addition to one agency meeting. The meeting format included an open house, a presentation featuring the Alternatives and a formal public comment period. The Public Scoping meetings were held in late April/early May in the Cities of El Segundo, Lawndale, Torrance and Redondo Beach. The meetings were attended by 193 people who provided 89 verbal and/or written comments. An additional 120 comments were received through the mail, email, voice mail and Facebook prior to the May 28, 2010 deadline.

There was a mix of support and concern for the project. Support was divided between the Light Rail and the No-Build or TSM Alternatives. Comments were less favorable towards the Freight Track alternative due to concerns for greater traffic, noise, visual and air quality impacts. Other areas of concern included noise, vibration, property values, crime, safety, and traffic impacts. As the environmental process proceeds, these potential impacts will be evaluated.

NEXT STEPS

We are continuing our work on the environmental and engineering tasks. We will hold the next series of public workshops in October to provide a progress report, a recap of Scoping comments, and to solicit input on station designs and alternatives. We will also meet quarterly with the Project's TAC as well as participate in meetings with other stakeholder groups and organizations. As the DEIS/EIR progresses, we will provide the Board with periodic updates. We will continue our public outreach efforts through traditional print and electronic media such as the project website and Facebook.

ATTACHMENT

A. Build Alternatives

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South Bay Metro Green Line Extension Build Alternatives

