

**Metro**Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation AuthorityOne Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952213.922.2000 ext.
metro.net**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2012****SUBJECT: FREEWAY BEAUTIFICATION PILOT PROJECT UPDATE****ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE****RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file this report on the Metro Freeway Beautification Pilot Project.

ISSUE

In August 2011 Metro initiated the Freeway Beautification Pilot Project to mitigate graffiti, remove debris and enhance the landscape along two freeway corridors. This report provides an update on the current status of the pilot project.

DISCUSSION**Background**

The freeway system is a visible reflection on Los Angeles County and impacts the mobility, economy, health, livability and perception of the county. Resource and budget constraints have forced cut backs on Caltrans resulting in increased graffiti, debris and poor landscape along the freeways. To help improve this situation and to ensure that this vital transportation infrastructure is properly maintained, Metro implemented the Freeway Beautification Pilot project (a.k.a. Metro Freeway Crew).

The purpose of the Metro Freeway Crew is to improve the maintenance and appearance of the freeway environment by focusing on three key areas 1) graffiti abatement, 2) debris removal, and 3) landscape maintenance. The project seeks to augment Caltrans' efforts and not replace their operations, and has been implemented along two specific freeway corridors:

- I-110 from Hill St to Exposition Blvd
- I-710 from SR-60 to I-405

Status

Corridor specific actions taken to date include:

Action	I-110	I-710	Comment
Graffiti Removal	✓	✓	Cleaned 250+ incidents
Bridge Paint-Out		✓	Railroad and Utility Bridges painted twice
Herbicide Spraying	✓	✓	Completed August 2012
Irrigation Repair	✓	✓	In progress
Landscape Showcase Plans	✓	✓	Draft plans being approved by Caltrans
Landscape Preparation	✓	✓	In progress
Debris Removal	✓	✓	In progress
Increased Caltrans Effort	✓	✓	Debris cleanup, specialized graffiti removal,

Additional general project efforts undertaken include:

- Completed evaluation of Caltrans maintenance practices
 - Evaluation of Caltrans maintenance, focusing on landscape maintenance, debris removal and graffiti abatement processes. In review and discussions with Caltrans on recommendations made by the consultant for improvement are ongoing.
- Initiated procurement action to obtain full-scale landscape maintenance contracts
 - With the showcase areas defined and plans in approval phase, final Statement of Work is being completed and release to procurement for action
- Began Metro-facilitated maintenance on Park-and-Ride facilities
 - With the impending acquisition of the Park-and-Rides Metro has begun maintenance with encroachment permit approval, graffiti and debris removal, landscaping, and power sweeping.
- Facilitated discussions with Caltrans, railroads and utility companies regarding the installation of additional vandalism deterrence on the I-710 railroad and utility crossings
 - Initial meetings were held with the railroads, utility companies and Caltrans to discuss deterrence implementation. Plans are currently being developed by Caltrans for review by the railroads and utility companies.

During the 2nd quarter of FY13, the following items are anticipated to be completed:

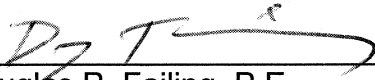
- Award of full-scale landscape maintenance and planting contract in support of the implementation of the approved showcase plans
- Exploration of partnership opportunities with the local community
- Possible expansion of the mural replica initiation onto the 110 project corridor
- Initiation of landscape work for each corridor
- Award of a contract to conduct an assessment of the 41 Caltrans-owned Park-and-Ride lots.

NEXT STEPS

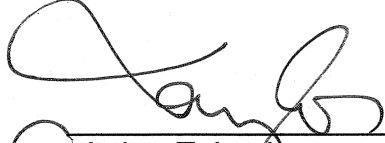
Staff will return to the Board with an update and if additional funding is required, to fully implement this project within the next six (6) months.

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