



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 16, 2013**

**SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENTS**

ACTION: APPROVE PROGRAMMING OF MEASURE R FUNDS

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Program up to up to \$1 million in Measure R 3% funds to the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) for final design of the Vincent siding extension;
- B. Program up to \$6.5 million in Measure R 3% funds as 50% match towards the \$13 million in costs for construction of the Vincent siding extension and Vincent Grade/Acton station second platform, subject to approval by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) of up to \$6.5 million in matching Proposition 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Funds (TCIF);
- C. Program up to \$3 million in Measure R 3% funds to begin environmental and preliminary engineering on infrastructure improvements on the Metrolink San Bernardino Line.
- D. Program up to \$100,000 in Measure R 3% funds to support the City of La Mirada with a noise study of the commuter and freight railroad right of way.
- E. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, to negotiate and execute all agreements necessary for these actions.

ISSUE

Vincent Grade/Acton Station Second Platform and Vincent Siding Extension Project

Metrolink will improve operations and add capacity to the Antelope Valley Line (AVL) by adding a second platform and extending the Vincent siding. Final design has been completed for the second platform at the Vincent Grade/Acton Station and the 4,000 foot Vincent siding extension design has been partially completed. LACMTA wishes to work with (SCRRA) to contract for final design of the Vincent siding extension and prepare the construction documents.

Final design of the Vincent siding extension is anticipated to be completed in early 2014. Upon the completion of final design, LACMTA will seek an allocation of up to \$6.5 million in California Transportation Commission (CTC) Proposition 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Funds (TCIF) for construction of the Vincent Grade/Acton station and Vincent siding extension.

San Bernardino Line Double Track Project

The LACMTA Regional Rail group has been developing the Metrolink San Bernardino Strategic Study to identify infrastructure needs to improve service and reliability. While the study is expected to be completed in early 2014, preliminary information has identified important needs along that line. The Regional Rail team anticipates that there is a need to advance a project that provides double tracking of a segment of that line within Los Angeles County ahead of the completion of the study. The programming of \$3,000,000 to the environmental and preliminary engineering of this segment will advance this project and prepare the project for the application for funding grants.

City of La Mirada Noise Study

The City of La Mirada has been working to advance a noise study of freight and commuter rail service on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway right-of-way through La Mirada. This study will analyze the noise impacts of the existing rail service along that line and address mitigations.

DISCUSSION

Vincent Grade/Acton Station Second Platform and Vincent Siding Extension Project

This project was included in the 2012 Metrolink AVL Infrastructure Improvement Strategic Plan, which recommended improvements to improve the overall capacity, track operations, and safety along the AVL.

This project will lengthen the existing siding west of CP Quartz (MP 60.0 to MP 60.8) by 4,000 feet to add a second track in a mostly single track alignment, and will add a second side platform at the Vincent Grade/ Acton Station. These improvements will allow both eastbound and westbound Metrolink trains to pass one another and reduce travel time by up to 15 minutes as trains in both directions will be able to simultaneously occupy the station. There will also be increased scheduling flexibility for freight trains that use the new longer Vincent siding. Freight trains will be able to reduce wait times by as much as 1 hour, as they will no longer have to hold at Lang Siding.

This project resolves a significant chokepoint on this line, adding enough capacity and throughput to operate up to seven additional trains and increase future ridership by up to 28%. This item funds capital improvements only. Metro will conduct analysis to evaluate phased implementation of additional service. Any additional service would be funded as part of the annual Metrolink budget approval process.

Design of the second station platform has been completed. The siding extension is 20% complete and needs to be finalized and approved by late March 2014. Then, an allocation request for the TCIF funds needs to be sent to Caltrans and the CTC in April 2014. With CTC concurrence in June 2014, LACMTA will receive up to \$6.5 million in matching Prop. 1B TCIF funds for the \$13 million in construction costs.

San Bernardino Line Double Track Project

The San Bernardino Line is operated by the SCRRA to run commuter rail service between San Bernardino and Los Angeles. The San Bernardino line is the busiest of the Metrolink system carrying more than 11,000 passengers a day with 42 trains. Currently, the line is mostly single track with a few double track segments and sidings which creates bottlenecks resulting in delays especially during peak periods. Through the current San Bernardino Line Study being conducted jointly by Metro and San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), a preliminary location for a 4-mile long double track segment has been identified in the Los Angeles County. Double tracking this segment will enhance operational flexibility as well as on-time performance on the line. This funding will advance environmental and preliminary engineering on that segment which will enable the project to compete better for grant applications for final design and construction.

City of La Mirada Noise Study

The City of La Mirada and the other Gateway Cities have been concerned about impacts to the community due to railroad operations along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway San Bernardino Subdivision. In addition to freight operations, Metrolink operates the Orange County Line, partially funded by LACMTA, over this Subdivision.

This funding will assist the City of La Mirada with the development of this study and an analysis of the mitigations necessary to reduce the noise impacts of railroad operations on the community. This item funds a portion of the study only. No mitigations are approved or funded.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

The newly built Vincent Grade/Acton station will have an inter-track fence between both platforms. The fence will restrict pedestrians from crossing between the two tracks. Pedestrian traffic will be channelized through designated at-grade crossings utilizing Metrolink's latest design standards for pedestrian treatments.

The San Bernardino Double Track Project will analyze the development of a second track in the corridor. The analysis will utilize Metrolink's standards for safe infrastructure, including grade crossing enhancements. This project will include capacity and safety improvements that will benefit the line and the community.

The La Mirada Noise Study addresses noise only and has no impact on safety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Vincent Grade/Acton Station Second Platform and Vincent Siding Extension Project

The funding of \$7.5 million for this project is added to the LACMTA Budget, in cost center 2415, Regional Rail, project number 460065, task 7, Vincent Grade/Acton. Recommendation A will allocate up to \$1 million in Measure R 3% funds to the FY 2013-14 budget to complete design of the Vincent siding extension. Recommendation B will allocate up to \$6.5 million in Measure R 3% funds to the FY 2014-15 budget for construction of the Vincent siding extension and second platform, subject to approval by the CTC of \$6.5 million in matching TCIF funds in mid 2014. Should the CTC not allocate the TCIF funds, then the up to \$6.5 million in matching Measure R 3% funds for construction will be reprogrammed.

San Bernardino Double Track Project

The funding of \$3 million for this project is added to the LACMTA Budget, in cost center 2415, Regional Rail, project number 460065, task 1, San Bernardino Line. Recommendation C will allocate up to \$1 million in Measure R 3% funds to the FY 2013-14 budget to initiate design and environmental work for the San Bernardino Line double track project. An additional \$2 million in Measure R 3% funds will be allocated to the FY 2014-15 budget for further design.

City of La Mirada Noise Study

Recommendation D will add \$100,000 of unallocated Measure R 3% funds to the LACMTA Budget for this study. The Regional Rail group will work with the City of La Mirada to advance this study.

Impact to Budget

- A. Source of funds: \$10.6 million in Measure R 3% funds
- B. Measure R 3% funds are designated for Metrolink commuter rail capital projects in Los Angeles County. These funds are not eligible to be used for Metro bus/rail operating or capital expenses. This programming action has no impact to the Proposition A and C, TDA or Measure R administration budgets.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Vincent Grade/Acton Station Second Platform and Vincent Siding Extension Project

One alternative is to not advance the project. If the Vincent siding is not extended and the second station platform is not constructed, then the current commuter and freight movements will continue to be restricted by the limitations of the existing track configuration and increases in ridership will be limited. Eastbound and westbound

Metrolink trains will continue to run up to 15 minutes longer than necessary in both directions. The freight trains will continue to run trips up to one hour longer than necessary, as they will need to continue holding at Lang Siding. The existing station safety concerns will remain as no inter-track fence could be constructed at the station to keep pedestrians from crossing between the mainline and siding tracks.

Another alternative is to complete the Vincent siding design only. If the CTC does not approve the allocation of up to \$6.5 million in TCIF funds for construction, then LACMTA would reprogram the up to \$6.5 million in matching Measure R 3% construction funds. In this case, LACMTA would only be responsible for up to \$1 million for final design of the siding. LACMTA could then pursue funds for construction at a later time.

San Bernardino Line Double Track

The alternative would be to not advance this project. However, not advancing this project will maintain an existing bottleneck on the line. This will prevent the opportunity to improve capacity and efficiency as well as the opportunity to add future additional service including express services. In addition, not advancing this project will mean ineligibility to obtain additional grants for construction funds.

City of La Mirada Noise Study

This is a study to determine the needs for this area. The alternative is to not advance this study. However, this would not address the needs of the city.

NEXT STEPS

Vincent Grade/Acton Station Second Platform and Vincent Siding Extension Project

With Board approval, LACMTA will work with SCRRA to initiate final design on the Vincent siding. Final design is scheduled for completion by April 2014. LACMTA will submit an allocation request in April 2014 for the CTC to allocate in June 2014 up to \$6.5 million in TCIF funds for construction. Construction is expected to commence by December 2014.

San Bernardino Double Track

With Board approval, the LACMTA Regional Rail team will begin the development of the Request for Proposals to contract with a consulting team to advance this project. A contractor will be competitively selected to work with LACMTA to develop this project. The Regional Rail team will bring a recommendation to the Board to award the project in 2014.

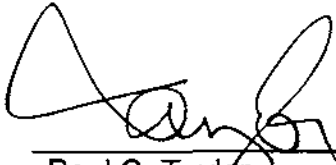
City of La Mirada Noise Study

With Board approval, the LACMTA Regional Rail team will work with the City of La Mirada to advance the study, including the development of a Memorandum of Understanding to define the roles and responsibilities of each agency.

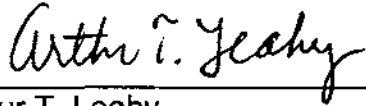
ATTACHMENTS

- A. Project Budget
- B. Project Exhibits
 - Antelope Valley Line Schematic
 - Vincent Grade/Acton Station Second Platform Exhibit
 - Vincent Siding Extension Exhibit

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Paul C. Taylor
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



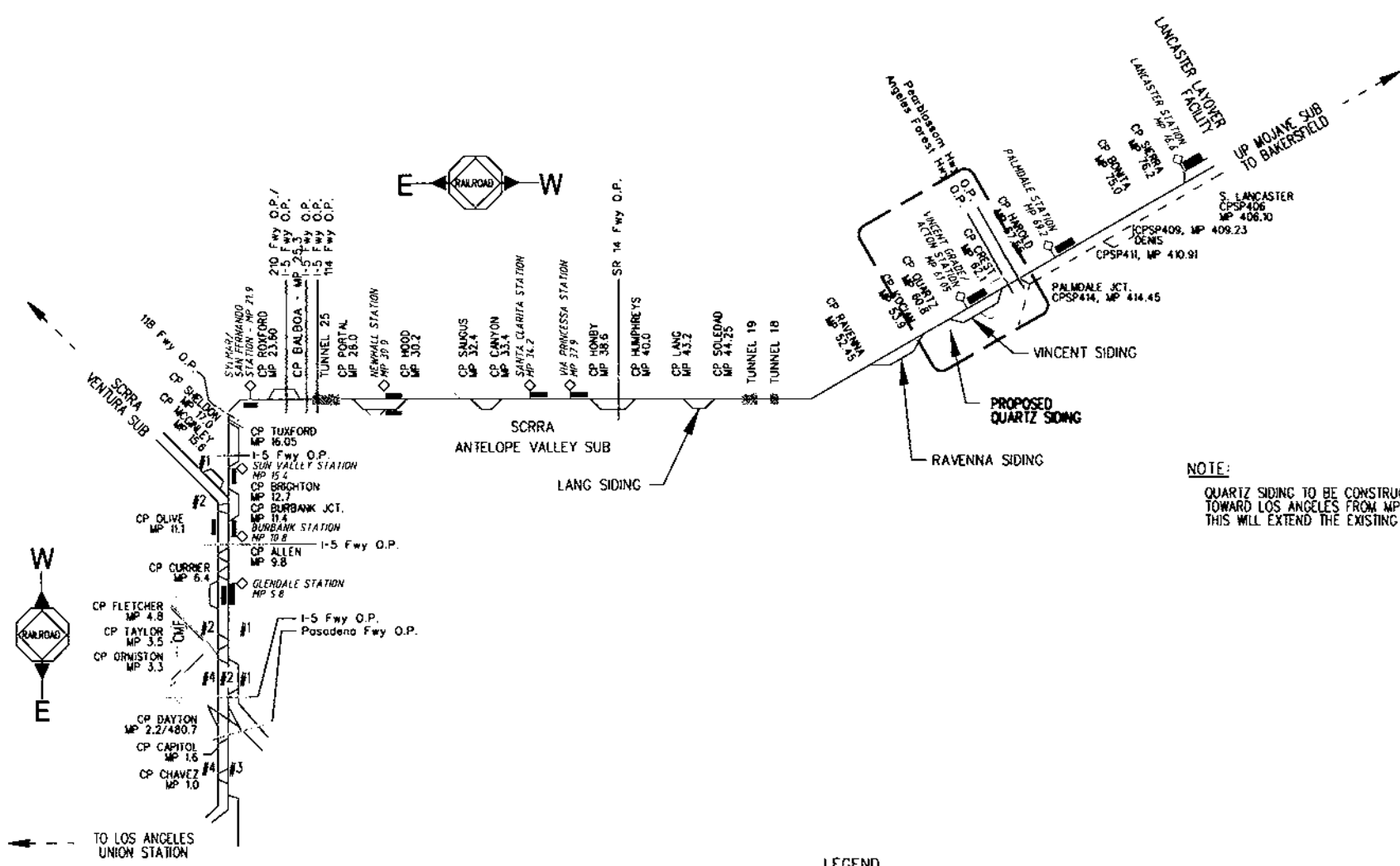
Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer

VINCENT GRADE/ACTON SIDING AND SECOND PLATFORM FUNDING PLAN
TOTAL FUNDING: \$14 MILLION

DESCRIPTION	MTA FUNDING (MILLIONS)	PROP 1B TCIF FUNDING (MILLIONS)
DESIGN		
Vincent Siding Extension	\$1.0	NONE
CONSTRUCTION		
Vincent Siding Extension	\$4.5	\$4.5
Second Platform	\$2.0	\$2.0
TOTAL:	\$7.5	\$6.5

PROJECT EXHIBITS

- Antelope Valley Line Schematic
- Vincent Grade/Acton Station Second Platform Exhibit
- Vincent Siding Extension Exhibit



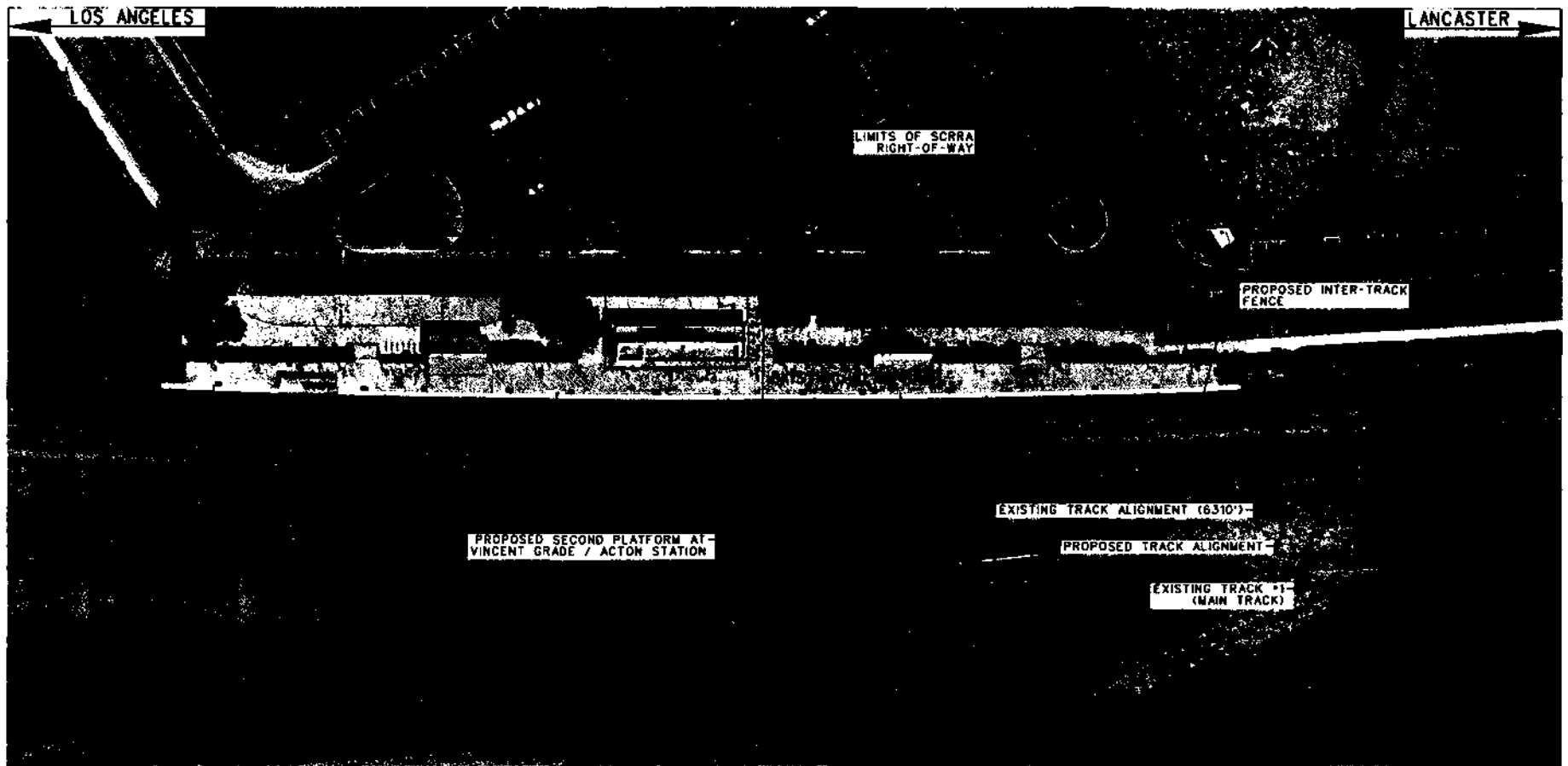
NOTE:
 QUARTZ SIDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED 4000 FEET TOWARD LOS ANGELES FROM MP 60.8 TO MP 60.00. THIS WILL EXTEND THE EXISTING VINCENT SIDING.

LEGEND

- SCRR MAIN TRACK _____
- RAVENNA SIDING EXTENSION _____
- METROLINK STATION PLATFORMS ■

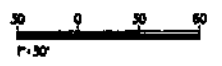
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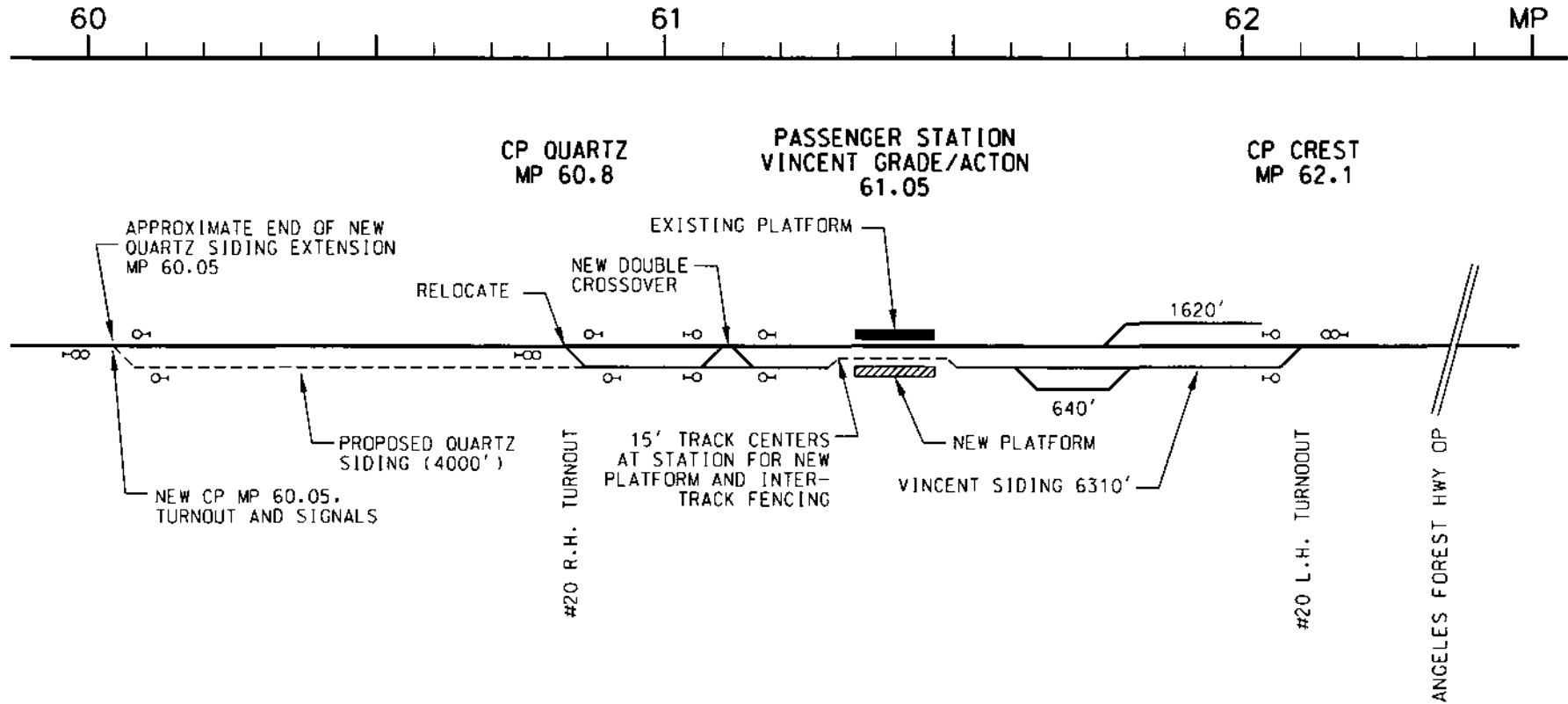
METROLINK STATION
VINCENT GRADE / ACTON

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LOS ANGELES

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