

**Metro**Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation AuthorityOne Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19, 2014****SUBJECT: BRANFORD STREET CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS****ACTION: PROGRAM MEASURE R FUNDS****RECOMMENDATION**

- A. Program \$1,325,000 in Measure R funds to Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) to make rail-highway grade crossing improvements at the Branford Street crossing on the Valley Subdivision; and,
- B. Authorize the CEO to enter into a funding agreement with SCRRA for the Branford Street Crossing Improvements.

ISSUE

The Branford Street Crossing Improvements Project is part of SCRRA's overall Sealed Corridor effort to enhance safety at several crossings along the Valley and Ventura Subdivisions in the San Fernando Valley. Once constructed, there will be less opportunity for collisions at this busy intersection (Attachment A).

In December 2013, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$1,325,000 in State funds for this project. This action will program the required 50% local match and ensure the project is fully funded through construction.

DISCUSSION

The Branford Street Crossing Improvements Project (Project) is one of SCRRA's highest priority crossings to upgrade to SCRRA's latest highway-rail grade crossing safety standards. The Project is part of SCRRA's larger Sealed Corridor program which will provide improvements to multiple crossings in the San Fernando Valley. The enhancements that are part of the Project include; installation of pedestrian crossing gates, additional warning gates, roadway widening, and advanced timing preemption. In addition, operations will be improved through flow and reduction of delays due to trains, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants, as a result of

less vehicle engine idle times when incidents occur. Furthermore, these enhancements will benefit the San Fernando Valley Bike Project Phase II.

The total budget for the Branford Street Crossing Improvements Project is \$2,850,000 (Attachment B). SCRRA has secured \$200,000 in City of Los Angeles funds, plus \$1,325,000 in Proposition 1B Highway Railroad Crossing Safety Account (HRCSA) funding for this high priority project. A 50% local match is required for the HRCSA funds. This action will program the required LACMTA Measure R local match funds.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

This crossing is part of SCRRA's Sealed Corridor program. The improvements at Branford Street will conform to SCRRA's latest highway-rail grade crossing safety standards, and reduce the overall opportunity for collisions at the crossing.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The funding of \$1,325,000 will be added to the FY 2014-15 budget in cost center 0444, Regional Rail, under project number 460064, Branford Street. Measure R 3% funds are eligible for Metrolink capital improvement projects within Los Angeles County. They are not eligible to be used for LACMTA bus and rail operating or capital expenses. This is a multi-year contract and the project manager is responsible for budgeting in future years.

Impact to Budget

A. Source of funds: Measure R 3% funds

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board could choose to not provide the required 50% match to the State HRCSA funds. This is not recommended since SCRRA would lose access to \$1,325,000 in State funds previously allocated in December 2013. In order to construct the project, SCRRA would need to find an alternate source of funds to match the HRCSA funds. The Branford Street Crossing Improvements would no longer be funded and the region would miss an opportunity to make safety enhancements at this high volume intersection.

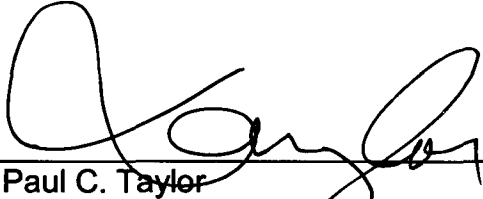
NEXT STEPS

With Board approval, staff will enter into a funding agreement with SCRRA for the Measure R funds. SCRRA will enter into a construction contract by June 2014, and invoice LACMTA for expenses incurred. Construction, including project closeout, is anticipated to take 12 months to complete.

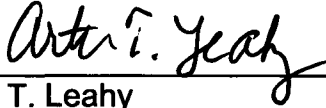
ATTACHMENTS

- A. Branford Street Crossing Improvements – Project Location
- B. Project Budget

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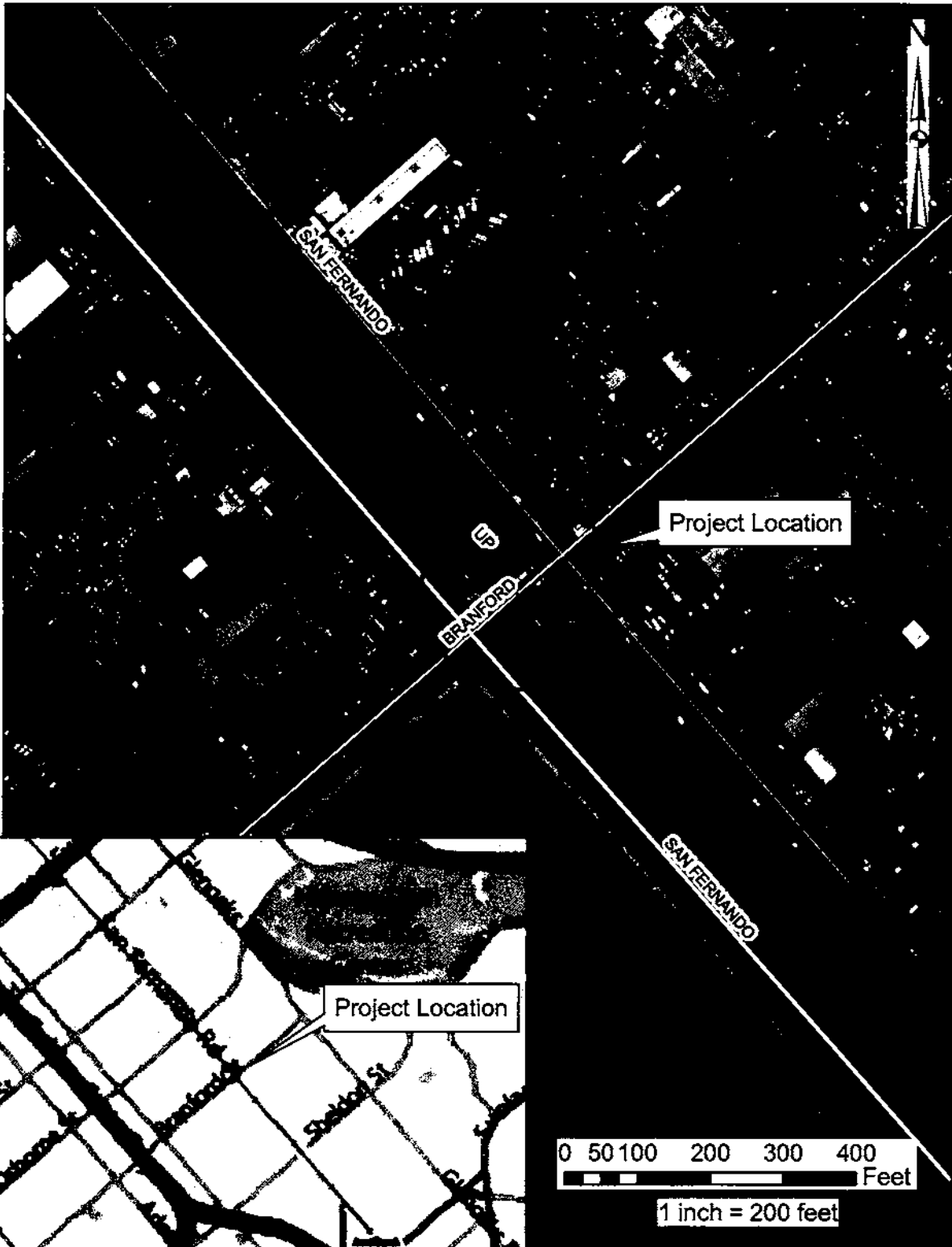
Paul C. Taylor
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer

Vicinity Map - Branford Street Crossing CPUC General Order 88-B Submittal

San Fernando Road Bike Path Phase II
Railroad Crossing Modifications



ATTACHMENT B

BRANFORD STREET CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS

City of Los Angeles	\$ 200,000	Design
Metro	\$ 1,325,000	Construction
Prop 1B HRCSA (State)	\$ 1,325,000	Construction
TOTAL:	\$ 2,850,000	