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**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 14, 2015
CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 15, 2015**

SUBJECT: AIRPORT METRO CONNECTOR

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file this quarterly status report on the Airport Metro Connector (AMC) 96th Street transit station in response to the June 2014 Board motion (Attachment A).

ISSUE

At the June 26, 2014 meeting, the Board directed that quarterly status reports be provided on the AMC 96th Street transit station in coordination with Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA) staff. The report provides updates on the status of the AMC project including: (1) environmental review process; (2) architectural and engineering design services; and (3) Crenshaw/LAX design accommodations for the future AMC transit station. The report responds to the Board directive.

DISCUSSION

Staff continues in coordination with LAWA to advance the AMC 96th Street Transit Station. Over this past quarter, work continued on the environmental review, station design and on the Crenshaw/LAX Line accommodations to allow for the construction of the station. LAWA continues its environmental clearance of its Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Landside Access Modernization Program (LAMP) including the Automated People Mover (APM) system.

The AMC 96th Street transit station is receiving interest by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). On August 26th, FTA Acting Administrator Therese McMillan along with Leslie Rogers, FTA Region 9 Administrator and other high ranking FTA staff toured LAX and both the LAMP and AMC project areas. LAWA staff joined the tour and provided a briefing on their Landside Access Modernization Program.

On September 8th, Metro submitted an expression of interest for the AMC 96th Street transit station for FTA's pilot project for expedited project delivery. This \$77 million expression of interest, if approved for funding, will help Metro to accelerate the project to a 2023 opening date, consistent with the Board direction to deliver this project earlier than the 2028 revenue operations date in the 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Environmental Review Process

Staff continues to work with LAWA representatives to coordinate the environmental efforts for both the AMC transit station and LAMP project, which are on parallel schedules. Metro and LAWA staff have been meeting bi-weekly to confirm project definitions, baseline traffic data, ridership model assumptions and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. This will help ensure that both separate and independent projects are fully synchronized.

In addition to exchanging data with LAWA representatives, Metro staff has been attending bi-weekly multi-agency ground access technical coordination meetings led by LAWA with Caltrans, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to discuss roadway concepts, freeway access, traffic modeling, and details of the LAMP project.

Architectural and Engineering Design Services

In July, the Board awarded the architectural and engineering design services contract for the station. A kick-off meeting was held on August 25th with the design team to present the project objectives, discuss the Board directed transit station design considerations as well as the Crenshaw/LAX construction schedule, accommodations for the 96th Street station and the Southwest Yard design and construction schedule. On August 26th, the design team received a detailed briefing by the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project, Southwestern Maintenance Yard and LAWA's LAMP design teams and toured the project area. Staff reinforced that the Crenshaw/LAX and Southwest Yards' construction schedules cannot be impacted by the AMC 96th Street Transit station. Work progresses on defining the station's program elements.

Crenshaw/LAX Design Accommodations

Staff has negotiated the necessary contract modification with Walsh-Shea Corridor Constructors and issued a notice to proceed on designing the accommodations. Staff has also informed the affected property owners that additional property acquisition is no longer needed on the east side of the Metro ROW for the accommodations.

NEXT STEPS

Staff in close coordination with LAWA staff will continue to work on the environmental document, station design and the Crenshaw/LAX design accommodations.

ATTACHMENT

A. June 26, 2014 Board Motion

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June 26, 2014 Board Motion

**MTA Board Meeting
June 26, 2014**

Relating to Item 65

**MOTION BY
MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI, COUNCILMEMBER MIKE BONIN, SUPERVISOR
DON KNABE & SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

For decades, the biggest missing piece of the transportation puzzle in Los Angeles has been a quick, convenient, and viable option for the traveling public to connect to our airport using our mass transit system. Making that connection has been a high priority for all Angelenos, who clearly made their position known by overwhelmingly supporting the construction of a direct airport connection as part of Measure R.

Several criteria are essential in evaluating the various alternatives that have been proposed for the Airport Metro Connector including cost, travel time, and interoperability with the regional network. However, given the considerable importance that the transit riders have placed on a seamless and robust airport connection, the final project will be judged largely by its ability to deliver on one critical aspect: passenger convenience.

The desire to provide an exceptional passenger experience should guide the Metro Board in designing this project. This airport connection will only be as good as the passenger experience it delivers, and the ridership numbers will largely reflect our ability to anticipate, meet, and exceed the expectations of the traveling public.

Done right, Alternative A2 (96th Street Station) could be the airport rail connection that Angelenos have longed for. It would provide a direct rail connection that will not only help address the ground transportation challenges at LAX, but also continue to expand MTA's regional transportation network, and has the potential to provide a world-class passenger experience to the traveling public.

The 96th Street Station can be the new "front door" to LAX for transit riders, and MTA and LAWA should work together and think imaginatively to meet and exceed the needs of the traveling public, and create a robust, visionary transit facility.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT the MTA Board of Directors adopt and direct the Chief Executive Officer to do the following:

1. Develop the 96th Street Station, in consultation with LAWA, using the following design guidelines:
 - a. Enclosed facility
 - b. Integrated APM/Light Rail station, minimizing walk distances
 - c. Concourse areas
 - d. LAX airline check-in with flight information boards
 - e. Station restrooms
 - f. Free public WiFi & device charging areas
 - g. Private vehicle drop-off area, and taxi stand
 - h. Pedestrian plaza with landscaping and street furniture
 - i. Metro Bike Hub with parking, a bike repair stand and bike pump, showers, lockers, controlled access and 24-hour security cameras
 - j. Retail (food/beverage and convenience)
 - k. L.A. visitor info and LAX info kiosk
 - l. Connectivity to Manchester Square and surrounding areas, including walkways
 - m. At a minimum, LEED Silver certification
 - n. Public art installation
 - o. Other amenities for airport travelers, including currency exchange and bank/ATM machines
 - p. Passenger safety

2. Report back at the September 2014 MTA Board meeting, in consultation with LAWA, with a review of baggage check amenities that are available at other transportation centers that serve major airports, including an assessment of the feasibility of offering baggage check at the proposed 96th Street Station.
3. Procure a qualified architectural firm to design the station as described under no. 1 above.
4. Provide quarterly updates, in coordination with LAWA staff, including, but not limited to, on the development of the 96th Street Station, the Intermodal Transportation Facility and Automated People Mover, of the following:
 - a. Design
 - b. Schedule
 - c. Cost Estimates
5. Report back at the September 2014 MTA Board meeting with a conceptual and station design approach plan as described above, and provide quarterly updates on implementation progress thereafter; and
6. Instruct the CEO to work with LAWA and the Board of Airport Commissioners to obtain their written commitment to construct and operate an automated people mover connecting the airport's central terminal area to a planned Metro Rail Station, and to report back at next month's (July 2014) Planning and Programming and Construction Committees, and at Committees each month thereafter until this written commitment is obtained, in order to ensure that the light rail connection to LAX that was promised to the voters in Measure R becomes a reality.