Wilshire Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit Project

SCOPING MEETING

October 2009
Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- Provide an overview of the proposed project
- Discuss the new environmental process
- Summarize the project alternatives
- Present the updated study schedule
- Listen to your comments so they can be considered in developing the Draft Environmental Impact Report
Introduction

- Wilshire Boulevard
  - Key east/west travel corridor
  - One of the most important transit corridors in Los Angeles County
  - Approximately 93,000 weekday bus boardings
  - Average bus speeds have declined steadily over the past 20 years

- Project area includes most of Wilshire Boulevard
  - From just west of downtown Los Angeles to the Santa Monica City line
  - Excludes the City of Beverly Hills

- Metro has commenced work on an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA)
Participating Agencies

- **Planning and Design**
  - City of Los Angeles
  - County of Los Angeles
  - Metro

- **Construction**
  - City of Los Angeles
  - Los Angeles County

- **Funding**
  - Federal Transit Administration
  - Metro
  - City of Los Angeles
Study Background

- **June 2008**
  - Metro, City of Los Angeles, and County of Los Angeles began studying the feasibility of peak period curbside bus lanes on Wilshire Boulevard
  - Metro & City of Los Angeles began Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA)

- **November 2008**
  - Four community meetings were conducted along the Wilshire corridor to present the proposed project and receive public comment
Study Background  (Continued)

- May 2009
  - Decision to elevate IS/EA to an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA)
  - Decision based on:
    - Public input
    - Technical analyses

- July 2009
  - Federal Transit Administration (FTA) determined that an EA is still appropriate to satisfy NEPA requirements
Proposed Project Overview

- **Bus lanes would:**
  - Operate only during weekday peak periods (7-9 AM & 4-7 PM)
  - In both directions
  - In the curb lane

- **Infrastructure improvements include:**
  - Curb lane repaving/reconstructing
  - Selective street widenings
  - Improved traffic signal timing
  - Improved bus signal priority
Environmental Process

- Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment:
  - Examine Wilshire BRT feasibility
  - Evaluate the environmental, social, and economic issues associated with the proposed project
  - Satisfies both state and federal requirements

- The EIR/EA will evaluate potential impacts related, but not limited to, the following:
  - Traffic & Parking
  - Air Quality
  - Noise
  - Cultural Resources (Architectural, Archaeological, Paleontological)
  - Environmental Justice/Community Impacts
  - Historic Resources/Parklands

- The EIR/EA will also evaluate project alternatives
Proposed Project Scope

Federal to Sepulveda – 0.6 miles
Remove 5 ft. of sidewalk on southern side of Wilshire, restrripe east and westbound lanes. Lengthen eastbound left-turn pocket at Sepulveda. Add eastbound peak period bus lane.

Fairfax to Western – 3.0 miles
Convert existing curb lanes to peak period bus lanes, convert existing curb lanes to peak period bus lanes, eliminate 11 parking spaces.

Beverly Hills to Fairfax – 0.6 miles
Convert existing curb lanes to peak period bus lanes.

Comstock to Beverly Hills – 0.5 miles
Malcolm to Comstock – 1.0 miles
Remove jut-outs, realign curbs, add peak period bus lanes.

Sepulveda to Malcolm – 0.8 miles
Convert existing curb lanes to peak period bus lanes.

Barrington to Federal – 0.1 miles
Widen both sides of Wilshire by removing 5 ft. of sidewalk, add eastbound peak period bus lane.

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Traffic Study

- Study intersections:
  - 17 on Wilshire Boulevard
  - 57 on parallel corridors

- For all 74 study intersections:
  - Traffic counts are being collected
  - Future traffic forecasts will be developed
  - Potential impacts on congestion will be identified

- Potential parking impacts will be evaluated
Project Alternatives

- No Build Alternative

- Proposed Project with the following modifications:
  - Eliminate the bus lane from S. Park View to Valencia (0.7 miles)
  - Eliminate the bus lane from Sepulveda to mid-block Veteran/Gayley (0.3 miles)
  - Between Malcolm and Comstock:
    - Retain all existing “jut-outs”
    - Convert existing curbside traffic lanes to weekday peak period bus lanes
  - Extend Wilshire Boulevard street reconstruction from between Fairfax and Western (2.8 miles) to between San Vicente and S. Park View (5.1 miles)
Project Alternative

- Retain jut-cuts between Malcolm and Comstock.
- Extend reconstruction of curb lanes between San Vicente and Fairfax.
- Eliminate bus lane from Sepulveda to mid-block Veteran/Gayley (0.3 mile).
- Extend reconstruction of curb lanes between Western and S. Park View.
- Eliminate bus lane from S. Park View to Valencia (0.7 mile).
Other Alternatives Considered

- Proposed Project with the following modifications:
  - Eliminate the bus lane from S. Park View to Valencia (0.7 miles)
  - Eliminate the bus lane from Sepulveda to mid-block Veteran/Gayley (0.3 miles)
  - Not eligible for federal funding

- Mini Bus Lanes
  - Construct approximately 2.5 miles of mini bus lanes in selected segments of Wilshire Boulevard
  - Street improvements and engineering enhancements
  - Not eligible for federal funding
Project Goals

- Improve bus passenger travel times
- Improve bus service reliability
- Improve traffic flow along Wilshire Boulevard
- Reconstruct the curb lanes along damaged portions of Wilshire Boulevard
- Encourage shift from automobile use to public transit
- Improve air quality
- Minimize impacts to existing parking
Project Funding

Federal Transit Administration
$23.3 million
74%

Metro
$4.9 million
16%

City of Los Angeles
$3.3 million
10%

TOTAL PROJECT = $31.5 million
## Study Schedule

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Upcoming Meetings

Monday, October 5
Felicia Mahood Center
11338 Santa Monica Boulevard

Wednesday, October 7
Wilshire United Methodist Church
4350 Wilshire Boulevard

Thursday, October 8
Westwood Presbyterian Church
10822 Wilshire Boulevard

Tuesday, October 13
Good Samaritan Hospital – Moseley-Salvatori Conference Room
637 Lucas Avenue

All Meetings: 6:00-8:00 PM
Contact Us

- Internet: metro.net/wilshire
  - Presentation & Other Information
  - Submit Comments
- Phone: (213) 922-2500
- Mail: LACMTA
  One Gateway Plaza
  Mail Stop: 99-23-1
  Los Angeles, CA 90012
  Attn: Martha Butler
- E-Mail: WilshireBRT@Metro.net
- Please submit comments by October 23, 2009
Questions & Comments