



WESTSIDE CITIES

- BEVERLY HILLS
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- SANTA MONICA
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- COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**SUSTAINABLE
WESTSIDE**
westsidecities.org

Transportation Committee Meeting

June 8, 2009, at 9:30 AM

Beverly Hills City Hall

Conference Room, 3rd Floor

455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:37a.m. with Council member O'Leary, Council member Brien and Mayor Pro-Tempore Heilman present. (See attached Sign-In Sheet for other attendees.)

The committee decided to continue to manage its meetings in a collaborative manner with Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman leading the meetings.

II. Follow-up to COG Board Meeting of 5/21/2009

A. Review of how the COG may be helpful in resolving Phase I issues and continue advocacy and support for Phase II. (This is in conjunction with Items III.B., below.)

Samantha Bricker, Expo, provide an update on the status of Expo Phase I and II, indicating the Phase I is under construction and that PUC had approved certain grade crossing applications and rejecting the at-grade application for Farmdale. That the PUC decided a pedestrian overcrossing was practicable and the Expo authority has resubmitted the appropriate environmental documents for reconsideration by PUC. Thus, that aspect of the project is in delay mode.

Ms. Bricker indicated that if the COG wanted to be helpful to this process it could express its support for a speedy resolution to the outstanding issues in Phase I.

Ms. Bricker indicated that Phase II was moving along very well. There was a lot of interest received during the public review process and the consultant has been given the Notice to Proceed on preparing responses to comments. Some of the outstanding issues include some grade crossing issues, finding a location for a maintenance yard and construction of the bike path. The final EIR is anticipated by the end of 2009 with award contract to begin construction on Phase II commencing in early 2010.

It was noted that the bike path effort is moving on a parallel path to match with the construction of the Phase II rail line.

Following discussion by the committee, the Transportation committee approved a recommendation to the COG governing board 1. authorize a letter from the COG to Metro reiterating support for the Expo and emphasizing how it's an essential component to solving some of the transportation problems on the Westside; 2. encourage each of the member jurisdictions to send a similar letter to Metro; and, 3. authorize the COG chair and staff to take appropriate steps to support the matter when it goes before the PUC.

III. Updates:

A. Measure R

It was indicated that Metro board member Pam O'Connor becomes the chair of the Measure R Implementation committee in July. Early on, there will likely be a major Measure R workshop to discuss the context of Measure R issues in relation to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). It was noted the funding under Measure R and the LRTP would have to be reconciled to advance projects quickly and efficiently. The Measure R workshop is planned for the July 16 and COG jurisdictions are encouraged to send staff.

B. Expo Phase I and II

See comments under Item II. A., above.

C. Westside Subway Extension Project

Metro staff indicated that the scoping comment period ended in May and comments are being compiled for the Scoping Report; Metro is currently working with staff from the Cities of Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Santa Monica and West Hollywood on issues related to station planning and land use. A land use planning workshop with staff from each of the cities will be held shortly. The Draft EIS/EIR is still reviewing both alternative alignments.

D. Status of Metro 2009 Call For Projects

It was indicated that all the applications are in. Metro staff is reviewing them and should have recommendations prepared later in the year and Metro Board review by the end of the calendar year.

IV. Review of the Workforce Housing Recommendations from Westside Cities Planners Group

A. Workforce Housing Study Executive Summary

B. Strategy Recommendations

The committee received a presentation from a member of the Westside Planners group. It was indicated the matter is being presented to the three COG subcommittees. Input from the committees will be compiled for review by the city managers/Technical Advisory committee to determine next steps. The matter will return to each subcommittee for further consideration.

V. Joint Venture with South Bay Council of Governments (SBCCOG) on Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Project

It was indicated that SBCCOG is moving forward with the six vehicle pilot project. It is still anticipated that Santa Monica and Culver City will participate in the pilot. Due to funding considerations, efforts are currently on hold relative to the preparing a joint application (SBCCOG and WSCCOG) for a proposed 1000 vehicle demonstration project.

Before concluding the discussion, the executive director was requested to coordinate with SBCCOG to make a presentation to transportation staff.

VI. Next Steps, Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Future Agenda Items

1. Discussion of the La Cienega Corridor
2. Status of the LRTP

VII. Receive and File:

A. February 9, 2008 Committee Meeting Notes

The meeting notes were received and filed without modification.

VIII. Announcements:

There were no announcements.

IX. Public Comment RE Items Not On the Agenda

NOTE: Depending on the length of the Agenda and number of individuals desiring to address the Committee, the time allotted for Public Comment may be limited.

Damien Goodmon, Empowerment Congress West Area NDG, expressed safety concerns relative to Expo alignment, indicating a hope for more equity in treatment along the Expo and with future transportation improvements.

Clint Simmons, West Adams Neighborhood Council Los Angeles, expressed concern that the committee didn't ask why there was a problem at Farmdale Ave and suggested members visit the area to better understand the relationship to Dorsey High School. Further, that an at-grade crossing would not be safe for the students at Dorsey High School.

Carol Tucker, Expo Communities United, extended an invitation for any of the members to visit the area before supporting an at-grade crossing, that the Expo Communities United support the project but only with a grade separated crossing at Farmdale Ave.

X. Adjournment

Due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting date was set for August 24, 2009 at 9:30 AM Beverly Hills City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 10:40a.m.

