



## WESTSIDE CITIES

· BEVERLY HILLS  
· CULVER CITY  
· LOS ANGELES  
· SANTA MONICA  
· WEST HOLLYWOOD

Westside Cities Transportation Committee  
Thursday, April 12, 2007 9:00 a.m.  
Beverly Hills Public Works Facility  
345 No. Foothill Road, Second Floor Room 217  
Beverly Hills, CA

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## Meeting Notes

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

- I. Exposition Light Rail Project Update and Review of Final Revised Fact Sheet**  
The Revised fact sheet was reviewed; version control was discussed. Funding status was briefly discussed including efforts to secure federal funds for Phase II. The issue that some federal funding decision makers do not know that Phase I was subjected to federal review. It is important to note this in Expo fact sheets. It was suggested that other major projects also be submitted for such review as it provides a common base of scrutiny and gets the project on federal representatives' radar. It was noted that Senator Feinstein has listed WSCCOG projects as important to her. It was clarified that this fact sheet is available for advocacy use and should be linked on member cities home pages.

It was suggested that COG transportation fact sheets be made a regular inclusion in briefing packets put together for member cities legislative/advocacy use and distribution.

- II. Westside Subway Extension Update and Review of Final Fact Sheet**  
The project fact sheet was reviewed.

Co-Chair Heilman questioned whether three statements in the fact sheet were still true and supported by the member cities: 1) that, "...the Westside Cities will actively participate in the planning process"; 2) "...will work together to determine the most appropriate project alignment"; and 3) "...concur that no city will be left behind and will have either or both direct access to the Westside Subway Extension and the Exposition Light Rail Project." He suggested these statements be reaffirmed.

Co-Chair Briskman asked whether West Hollywood had established a citizens' transportation advocacy committee. It was suggested that down line, if member cities' advocacy committees were merged, conversations/exchange might lead to consensus of primary mode and alignment objectives and recommendations. She noted it is important we proceed in a way that does not disrespect any city's priorities.

Jody Litvak advised that an RFP has gone out to select consultant(s) for environmental/planning analysis and community outreach. She reminded that Metro has not determined either route or mode. She also advised that the expected time frame for development of the alternative analysis is approximately 18 months—by year end 2008. She committed to ensure meetings take place with WSCCOG member cities for individual opportunities to express concerns/recommendations; she also said she would share information regarding

alignment analysis as available throughout the process. She noted she would provide an updated general rail map for the fact sheet.

Co-Chair Heilman expressed his concern that individual member cities not express their conclusions RE route without hearing from their constituents and considering the impact of route choices. He noted that to date, West Hollywood has supported transportation projects that primarily benefit other WSCCOG member cities. He asked Co-Chair Briskman to advise if the Beverly Hills citizen's committee route recommendation had been endorsed by the City Council. Co-Chair Briskman responded that the citizen's committee had originally been formed to, in part, help overcome public resistance to a subway project regardless of route. She noted the committee not only surmounted that historic position, but also went beyond expectations, to recommend a Wilshire Boulevard route. In response to additional questions, Aaron Kunz and Co-Chair Briskman advised that three routes were considered by the citizen's committee (Santa Monica Boulevard, Wilshire Boulevard and San Vincente routes) and that service/ridership potential and projected alignment costs were considered.

Co-Chair Heilman noted that it may turn out that the COG supports the project in concept while disagreeing on specifics, but that should not be accepted as the inevitable outcome at this time. Jody Hall Esser suggested that the voice of the COG is strengthened if it can agree on project specifics as well as basic project concept.

The Co-Chairs agreed that the Transportation Committee should recommend a process to clarify member city commitment to a collaborative process, to strive for agreement as to route and to ensure timely collaboration and input to the Metro process. Jody Hall Esser committed to draft something for consideration and refinement in consultation with staff.

It was recommended that the project fact sheet be revised to use the commonly referred project title "Westside Subway Extension Project; reference the Metro RFP process underway and the expected 18-month alternative analysis process.

### **III. I-10 Robertson/National Area Circulation Project Update and Review of Final Fact Sheet**

Steve Cunningham commented on reference to monthly meetings with CD5, CD 10, LADOT, and Caltrans; City of Los Angeles/Council Member Wesson has committed \$250K to the project; and the City of Los Angeles had submitted a request for Bond Funding. It was also noted that the fact that this project will rely on largely different pots of funding than the other COG priority projects should be referenced on the fact sheet.

Jody Hall Esser recommended each of the three current WSCCOG priority project fact sheets (for: 1) Expo Phase II; 2) Westside Subway Extension; and 3) I-10 Robertson/National projects) contain a common paragraph referencing the three transportation/infrastructure improvement priorities of the WSCCOG.

#### **IV. Recommended Conditions to Adding the Green Line Extension Project to the List of WSCCOG Supported and Prioritized Transportation and Infrastructure Projects to be Referred to the WSCCOG Member Cities for Consideration**

Phillip Tate, Legislative Director for Council Member Bill Rosendahl provided a brief history of the project and reasons for seeking support and project funding for the two-mile extension into the airport at this time. He noted the window for funding from the Airport Authority is such that it must be pursued now. He noted the estimated project cost at \$150-200 million as opposed to the billions for the proposed Westside Subway Extension project. He also noted pending legislation that would provide for a significant amount of project funding.

The proposed conditions of support suggested in the staff report for this agenda item were discussed:

1. That it is prioritized number 4 after the Exposition Line; Westside Subway Extension; and the I-10/Robertson projects;
2. That it does not compete for or shift, directly or indirectly, funding or other resources from the Westside COG's top three priorities as listed above; and
3. The Green Line Extension to LAX includes discussion of its connections and benefit to the Westside Cities in its advocacy documents.

Mr. Tate expressed his slight concern about condition #2. Jody Hall Esser noted that Council Member Rosendahl has previously advised the COG Board he would understand if this project was adopted as priority 4.

Co-Chair Heilman's questioned the route for the People Mover. Mr. Tate advised of route options.

Co-Chair Briskman expressed she has long felt a collective voice is necessary and appropriate to solve regional problems. She noted that the "clout" of the City of Los Angeles has been used in past to slip projects in front of collective Westside priorities. She also noted that she may support adding this priority but not at the expense of the three priority projects previously established by the WSCCOG.

Co-Chair Heilman stated he did not believe the Green Line project should be added as a COG priority project as it may dilute the COGs position on the other three projects.

The Co-chairs agreed to recommend the staff suggested conditions for adding the Green Line as priority #4 to the COG Board at the May meeting; recommending the conditions be then referred out to the member cities for consideration and final WSCCOG Board action as early as the COG Board's meeting in July.

#### **V. Pending Legislation — AB889 (Lieu) Green Line Authority; Status of Long Range Transportation Plan Process; Bond Measures and Governor's Proposed Budget**

The purpose of AB889 (Lieu) Creation of a Green Line Authority and the legislation's similarity to the Expo Authority legislation was discussed. Claudette Moody advised that Assembly Member Lieu has calendared the bill for consideration; the Metro Executive Management Committee adopted an oppose position in March but action by the full Board was deferred until the April meeting at the end of the month, and that Metro Vice Chair Pam O'Connor believes the bill to be premature. It was noted that creation of the Authority would circumvent the regional planning process and potentially usurp funding for higher priority WSCCOG/regional projects. It was further noted that unlike the currently proposed Green Line Construction Authority the two existing construction authorities in Los Angeles were created for projects after they had already been included in the Long Range Transportation Plan, had environmental clearance, and secured funding. General discussion ensued. Brief discussion ensued about the timing and effect of potential creation of the proposed Authority. Co-Chairs Briskman and Heilman agreed that creating the Authority at this time/the legislation appears premature.

It was confirmed that there has been no action regarding the Long Range Transportation Plan.

The Governor's draft budget was discussed. It was noted that as proposed, several hundred million dollars in "spillover funds" were being redirected to other uses. Of particular concern was the loss of operating funds for transit operators. It was agreed this is not what the voters intended; funding for operating subsidies was reaffirmed in Prop 42. It was agreed a letter should immediately be sent over the Chair's signature, strongly opposing the proposed redirection of transportation funds. Steve Cunningham, in consultation with Claudette Moody and Jody Litvak, agreed to take the lead in drafting the letter. All agreed to alert their lobbyists to weigh in on this issue as well.

#### **VI. Recommended Advocacy Efforts**

No additional recommendations were suggested.

#### **VII. Next Steps, Confirmation of Future Meeting Dates and Future Agenda Times**

Future meeting dates were confirmed.

It was agreed that future meetings would commence at 9:30 AM

Co-Chair Heilman noted that if reappointed as Delegate/Alternate and serving on the Transportation Committee, he would not be able to attend the meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that Committee member availability for the August meeting would be confirmed at the meeting in July.

#### **VIII. Public Comment**

Jay Greenstein, Aide to Councilmember Jack Weiss, passed out a synopsis of AB922 as introduced on 2/22/07 and a map of the statistical area proposed in the legislation. If adopted, this legislation will provide for creation of a statistical district to prove the necessity of western expansion of the subway line from its current terminus at Wilshire and Western. The bill is co-authored by Assembly Members

Lloyd Levine and Mike Feuer. Mr. Greenstein and Kan Mattoo, aide to Assembly member Lloyd Levine answered questions about the pending legislation and statistical area boundaries proposed. It was agreed that when added to the statistics already available for the other WSCCOG separately incorporated cities, the combined data is anticipated to strengthen advocacy efforts by demonstrating workforce, tax generation, potential ridership and related stats. Mr. Greenstein and Mr. Mattoo invited comments and suggestions to improve the legislation.

Terri Slimmer noted the pending Metro fare increase.

The Rapid Bus scheduled to start-up on Santa Monica Boulevard was announced.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on June 14, 2007 at 9:30 AM in Beverly Hills.

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**Meeting Attendance:**

John Heilman, Mayor, City of West Hollywood and Committee Co-Chair  
Linda Briskman, Council Member City of Beverly Hills and Committee Co-Chair

Jody Hall Esser, Executive Director WSCCOG

**Beverly Hills:** Aaron Kunz

**Culver City:** Steve Cunningham, Diana Chang

**Los Angeles:** Jay Greenstein, Phillip Tate

**Santa Monica:** Kate Vernez, Ellen Gelbard

**West Hollywood:** Terri Slimmer

**Other:** Jim Lynch (SM Chamber); Sharon O'Rourke (Gas Co WC3); Jody Litvak (Metro); Claudette Moody (Aide to Metro Vice Chair O'Connor); Kan Mattoo (Assembly Member Levine); Denny Zane (STTS);