



WESTSIDE CITIES

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



Westside Transportation Advocacy Toolkit

May, 2006



Westside Mobility Update

The Westside Cities undertook a transportation mobility study to actively address the fact that the region is choking in traffic. Three key Westside projects were identified warranted by the levels of congestion, employment, and economic contribution within the region:

- Exposition Light Rail to Santa Monica
- Westside Subway Extension
- Reconfiguration of the I-10 interchange at Robertson and Venice.

Subsequent to the study, the cities formed the Westside Cities Council of Governments (COG) to forge consensus on policies and programs of regional significance, such as mobility. The COG provides a forum for collective advocacy on behalf of the Westside sub-region with regional, state and federal agencies. The COG is characterized by one of the highest population and employment densities in Los Angeles County, as well as one of the highest proportions of transit ridership.

Improving mobility takes a multijurisdictional approach to address regional transportation needs. Significant improvements to transportation require large capital outlays preceded by analytical/technical studies and years of concerted effort to secure limited public funds. Large transportation projects, such as Exposition Light Rail and the Westside Subway Extension, will require new revenue sources to be developed county and statewide and secured from the Federal government as a new start project. The Westside needs to advocate for creation of revenue to fund unmet transportation needs.

The livability of our cities in the future will depend on how light rail and subway can improve quality of life, assure economic vitality and capitalize on already high levels of transit use. It is not an issue of one transit line or the other. Both lines are warranted by the robust economic base, and the diverse cultural and recreational amenities within the region. Several considerations identified are:

- *The Westside economy produces more than 11% of the jobs in the County and has some of the region's highest employment densities (462,467 jobs).*
- *13% of Westsiders take transit to work, double the County average of 6%*
- *Although there is high transit ridership with more than 300,000 per day bus boardings, the buses are struck in traffic.*
- *Population density averages 6,000 people per square mile, roughly double the County average*
- *The I-10 and I-405 interchange is rated 2nd most congested in the nation and Westside arterial roads operate at an "F".*

MILESTONES AND REQUIRED ACTION
Exposition Light Rail Transit (LRT)

- Metro Board approved \$640 million funding plan for Phase 1 from downtown Los Angeles to Culver City (May 2005).
- Metro Board certified Final EIS/EIR for Phase 1 (December 2005).
- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) signed the Record of Decision for Phase 1, completing federal environmental clearance (February 2006).
- The California Transportation Commission approved \$208 million (March 2006); CTC scheduled to approve an additional \$315 million in April 2006.

REQUIRED ACTION

- Secure Metro Board approval of funding to complete EIS/EIR to Santa Monica (June 2006).
- Ensure that phase 2 to Santa Monica is included in the Metro Long Range Transportation Plan for funding as soon as possible (Summer 2006).
- Amend Federal Legislation to define the line as going to Santa Monica and to be able to use phase 1 money as a match for potential federal funds on phase 2 to Santa Monica.

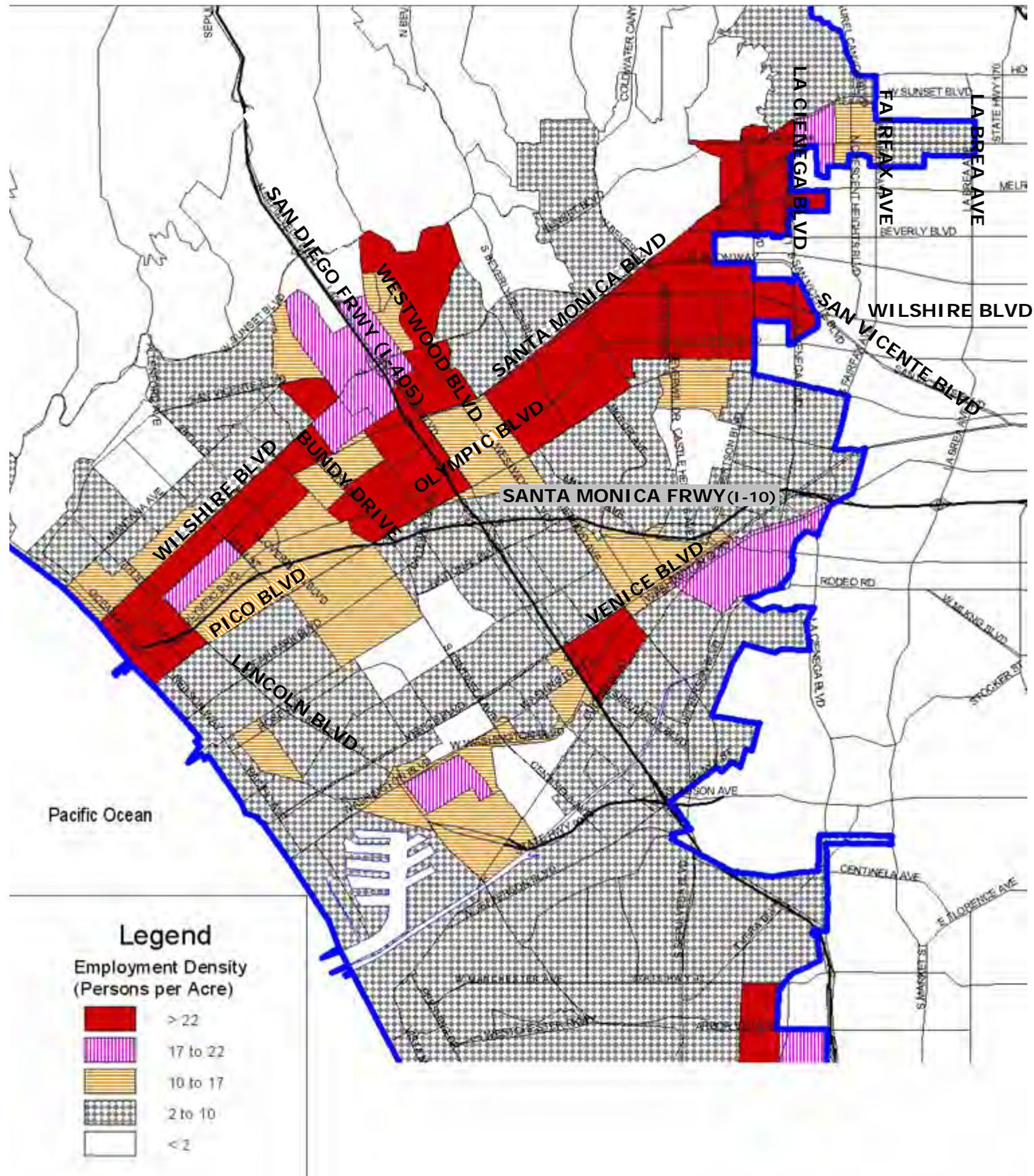
Westside Subway Extension

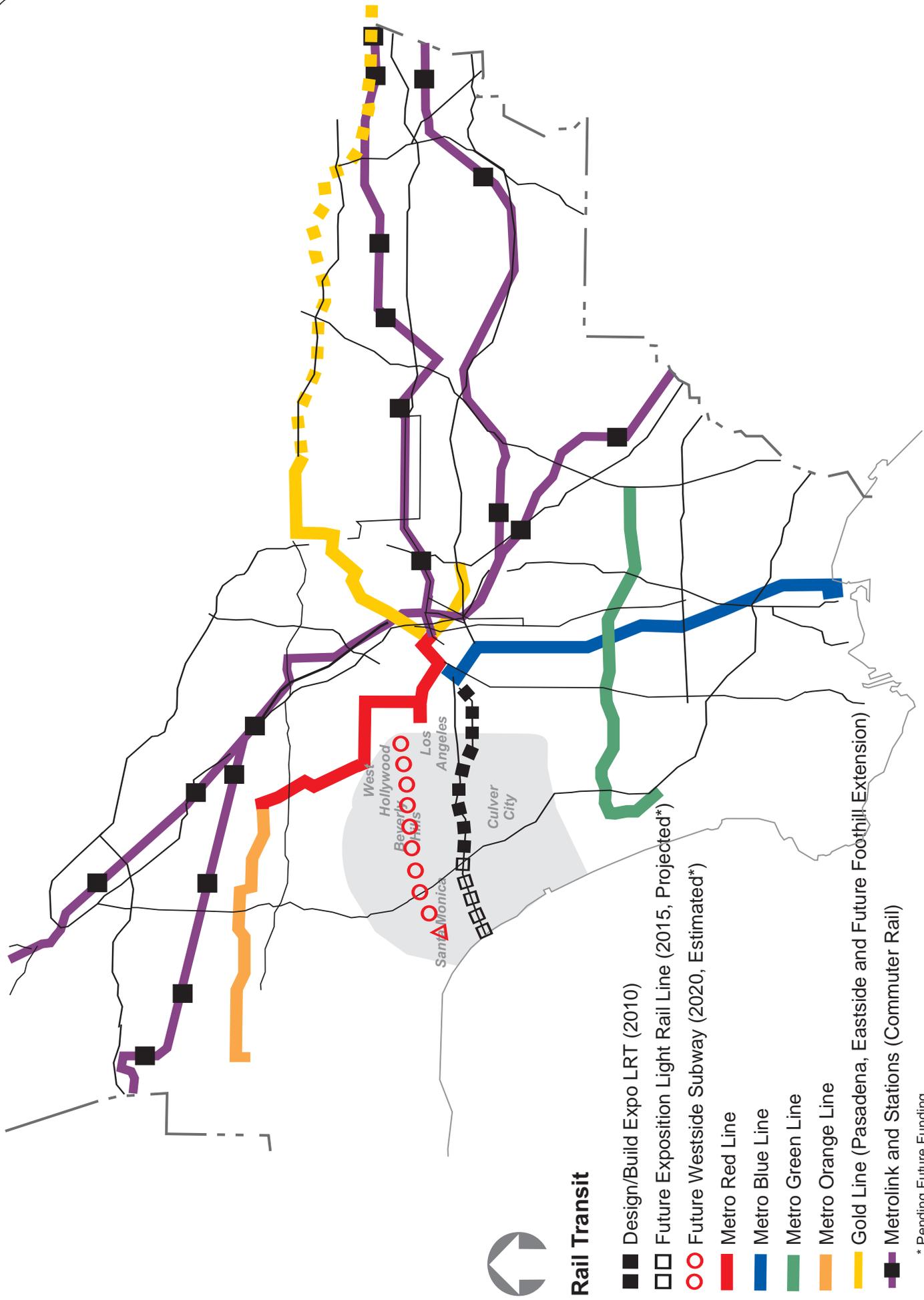
- Westside Cities approve resolutions supporting inclusion of a subway extension to Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and West Los Angeles in the next update of the Metro Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) introduced H.R. 4653 seeking to repeal restrictions on federal funding.

REQUIRED ACTION

- Representatives of the Westside Cities will convene and develop a preferred subway route that will serve the Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and West Los Angeles communities.
- Advocate Metro Board approval for funding to commence project planning and to prepare environmental clearance.
- Advocate for inclusion as a high priority project in Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan (Summer 2006).

Westside Employment Densities





Rail Transit

- Design/Build Expo LRT (2010)
- Future Exposition Light Rail Line (2015, Projected*)
- Future Westside Subway (2020, Estimated*)
- Metro Red Line
- Metro Blue Line
- Metro Green Line
- Metro Orange Line
- Gold Line (Pasadena, Eastside and Future Foothill Extension)
- Metrolink and Stations (Commuter Rail)

* Pending Future Funding

EXPO LIGHT RAIL AND FUTURE WESTSIDE SUBWAY EXTENSIONS WILL PROVIDE KEY TRANSIT LINKAGE TO REGIONAL JOBS AND RELIEF FOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION

PLEASE USE YOUR BUSINESS/PERSONAL LETTERHEAD

Dear Mr. / Ms. _____,

I am writing to you as a concerned (resident / business owner / employer / employee) to express my support for vital public transportation and infrastructure improvements on the Westside of Los Angeles County. The Westside is the second largest employment center in the region with nearly 500,000 jobs and is home to some of the worst traffic congestion in the United States. Funding is required to move much-needed transportation projects from the drawing board to reality. To accomplish this, I strongly urge you to support:

- 1) **Exposition Light Rail to Santa Monica:** funding is needed to complete the Mid-City/Exposition Light Rail line in its entirety, seven miles from Culver City to Santa Monica. Phase 1 will link downtown Los Angeles to Culver City with construction expected to begin in late 2006. While funding has been allocated to perform the Phase 2 environmental studies, approximately \$750 Million is needed to finish the project. The line will parallel the congested Interstate 10 and provide a viable transportation option. The projected ridership of 72,000 boardings per day will only be realized when the line is complete to Santa Monica.
- 2) **Westside Subway Extension:** funding is required for a subway route that will serve the Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and West Los Angeles communities. The immediate need is funding for project planning and to prepare environmental clearance. This line would provide a significant transportation improvement to a corridor with high employment and residential densities.
- 3) **Reconfiguration of I-10 Interchange at Robertson/Venice:** the \$2 million federal appropriation will fund the planning, design, and preliminary engineering of the project to address the junction of five major boulevards and four I-10 ramps. The appropriation must be allocated as part of the federal budget. Subsequent construction is estimated at \$100 million.

The robust economic base and diverse cultural and recreational amenities on the Westside warrant both the Exposition Light Rail and Westside Subway Extensions. These two distinct projects serve separate corridors and have different project timelines. The three major transportation projects outlined above will make a significant difference in people's lives. Thank you in advance for your support and leadership in securing this needed funding.

Sincerely,





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Westside Transportation Symposium
May 5, 2006