



WESTSIDE CITIES

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

Item 6 C

Westside Cities Transportation Committee

October 23, 2006, 9:30 a.m.

Beverly Hills City Hall

First Floor, Room 180-A

455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills

Meeting Notes

I. Metro Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Metro staff advised that the MTA Long Range Transportation Plan process has been on hold pending the outcome of vote on the Infrastructure bonds on November 7. The process will commence again in early 2007 with the goal of adopting the plan by summer 2007. The Committee discussed the importance of participating in the planning process.

II. Call for Projects – Plans to submit joint funding applications due in January 2007

The Westside COG staff discussed plans to submit revised applications that were submitted for the 2003 Call for Projects previously cancelled due to funding constraints. These applications include: an intersection tool kit that includes transit amenities and streetscape improvements for La Cienega, Santa Monica and Lincoln Boulevards. Staff also plans to submit applications related to bicycle improvements.

John Heilman, Mayor, West Hollywood expressed that the applications need to focus on mobility improvements. Linda Briskman, City Councilmember, Beverly Hills, expressed that the transit amenities can mitigate residential perception that transit decreases quality of adjacent neighborhoods.

III. Exposition Light Rail Project Update

The Committee noted the success of the September 29 groundbreaking for Phase 1 of the Expo Light Rail project. The Exposition Construction Authority Board is scheduled on November 2 to select consultants for the environmental and engineering services for Phase 2 from Culver City to Santa Monica. Planning will begin in January 2007.

IV. Westside Subway Extension Update

Metro staff discussed the MTA Board approval of the full-time position to initiate a Major Investment Study for the Westside Subway Extension. The Major Investment Study will include an alternatives analysis and environmental clearance. The current goal is to recommend an alignment in fall 2008.

John Heilman expressed concern that the City of Beverly Hills' Mass Transit Committee is promoting a Wilshire alignment prior to the MTA's Major Investment Study. Linda Briskman responded that the Mass Transit Committee's charge was not restricted. The Committee has not finalized its recommendations with the Beverly Hills City Council and both alignments should be studied as part of MTA's Major Investment study. John Heilman indicated that he believed the westside cities had agreed to present unified positions on transportation issues and he did not feel that Beverly Hills' committee was acting in that spirit. She noted that ultimately, the decision of route alignment and station locations will be made by the MTA. She suggested that West Hollywood convene a similar committee

V. Development Impact Fee – Metro staff presentation regarding potential impact fees

Metro Staff provided an overview of the Congestion Management Program Policy Advisory Committee that is working to develop a development impact fee. These would replace the previous debit and credit system for the CMP. Joan English, Deputy City Manager, West Hollywood represents the Westside COG on this Committee, with Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director, Beverly Hills, as the alternate.

VI. Livable Boulevard Symposium – Summary of October 6, 2006 event

The Committee acknowledged the success of the event and that City Commissions should be encouraged to attend future events.

VII. Advocacy Efforts

Kate Vernez discussed coordination efforts that are underway with each City's lobbyists on the COG transportation agenda. COG staff will discuss hiring a local consultant to coordinate city messages once Jody Hall Esser returns after November 1.

VIII. Next Steps

The Next COG meeting is November 17 in Beverly Hills.

IX. Public Comment

Steven Box, illuminate LA, expressed support for addressing bicycle safety improvement.