

**Board Report**

File #: 2015-0898, **File Type:** Informational Report

Agenda Number: 14.

**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**

**SUBJECT: VERMONT AND NORTH HOLLYWOOD TO PASADENA BUS RAPID TRANSIT
CORRIDORS**

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE AND FILE this update on the status of **the advanced technical studies for the Vermont and North Hollywood to Pasadena corridors** in response to the July 24, 2014 and October 23, 2014 Board directives.

ISSUE

At the July 24, 2014 meeting, the Board directed staff to begin the advanced technical work on the Vermont and North Hollywood to Pasadena corridors as a result of recommendations from the Los Angeles County Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Street Design Improvement Study. Attachment A contains the Board directive. This was further supported through a subsequent motion approved by the Board at the October 23, 2014 meeting (Attachment B). This report updates the Board on the advanced technical work for the two corridors.

DISCUSSION

Background

In December 2013, staff completed the Los Angeles County BRT and Street Design Improvement Study. The purpose of the study was to develop recommendations for an effective countywide BRT system that includes dedicated peak period bus lanes and/or other general bus speed improvements. At the February 2014 Planning and Programming Committee, staff presented the study findings and identified nine potential BRT candidate corridors. Staff recommended moving forward with more detailed corridor level technical analysis of the nine corridor beginning with the Vermont and North Hollywood to Pasadena corridors.

Technical Studies

In July 2015, task orders were issued for consultant services to complete the Board directed advanced technical work for both the Vermont and North Hollywood to Pasadena corridors. A

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been established for each study consisting of representatives of affected jurisdictions along the corridor as well as other key stakeholders. The purpose of each TAC is to discuss project status, provide technical consultation, and receive feedback in order to identify any issues and/or challenges and potential resolutions. The first TAC meeting for each study was held on August 13, 2015. Both technical studies will be conducted concurrently and are expected to take up to 18 months to complete.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue the technical studies for both the Vermont and North Hollywood to Pasadena corridors.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - July 24, 2014 Board Motion

Attachment B - October 23, 2014 Board Motion

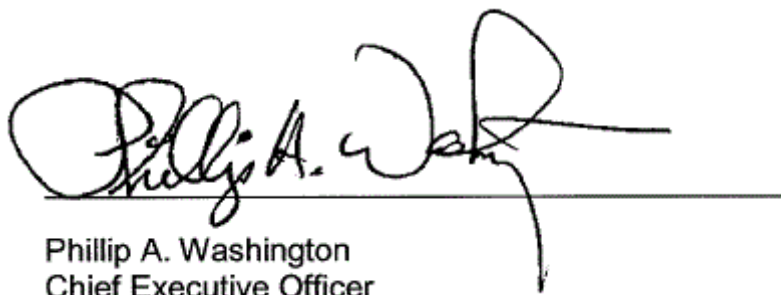
Prepared by: Michael Richmai, Transportation Planning Manager, (213) 922-2558

Martha Butler, Director, (213) 922-7651

Eugene Kim, Deputy Executive Officer, (213) 922-3080

Renee Berlin, Managing Executive Officer, (213) 922-3035

Reviewed by: Martha Welborne, FAIA, Chief Planning Officer, (213) 922-7267



Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer

**MOTION BY DIRECTORS MICHAEL ANTONOVICH,
ARA NAJARIAN, MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND ERIC GARCETTI**

July 24, 2014

After several years of evaluation, MTA staff developed a list of eligible corridors for additional bus rapid transit (BRT) projects based on, among other things, ridership potential and net savings of operations funding. Two of the corridors hit upon unmet transit needs, which would greatly relieve congestion and link major transit centers.

The first corridor, Vermont Avenue, has long been recognized as one of the most congested streets in Los Angeles. According to MTA statistics, the Vermont Avenue corridor has among the most daily bus boardings in all of LA County. The bus system is unable to accommodate commuter demands without service improvements.

The second corridor between the North Hollywood Red/Orange Lines and the Pasadena Gold Line, by all accounts, has huge ridership potential and would connect the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys. Metro, in collaboration with Bob Hope Airport, is providing an important plane-to-train connection through improvements to the Metrolink Antelope Valley and Ventura County Lines. The Airport recently opened its Regional Intermodal Transit Center that provides seamless connectivity from trains to buses to planes. An additional connection through enhanced BRT is warranted to increase mobility.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CEO direct staff to advance these projects and provide the Board with a report back in September on an implementation plan to include:

- A. Operations requirements
- B. Funding requirements
- C. Implementation timelines

I FURTHER MOVE that the CEO:

- A. Immediately initiate the hiring process for the Bus Rapid Transit planning position included in the Board-approved MTA Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget
- B. Dedicate additional staff to the aforementioned projects and the Countywide BRT Study as needed

MOTION BY DIRECTORS ARA NAJARIAN, GARCETTI AND ANTONOVICH

Construction Committee

October 16, 2014

At the July 24, 2014 board meeting, the MTA board approved moving both the Vermont Avenue BRT and the North Hollywood to Pasadena BRT to the environmental phase in preparation and anticipation of future funding. Board Chair, Mayor Garcetti, amended the motion to direct that both BRT's should be MTA's top priority for federal small starts funds.

At the board staff briefing this week, MTA staff stated that a consultant was being procured only for the Vermont Avenue BRT, in direct contrast to the board's direction that both BRT projects move forward in tandem to be positioned for small starts funding. To support this motion,

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the consultant procurement for BRT advancement be amended to include the North Hollywood to Pasadena BRT.