

**Board Report**

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**File #:** 2016-0561, **File Type:** Motion / Motion Response

**Agenda Number:** 26.

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**SYSTEM SAFETY, SECURITY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 18, 2016**

**SUBJECT: SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR BLUE LINE WARDLOW STATION**

**ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE STATUS REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS AT THE WARDLOW BLUE LINE STATION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

RECEIVE AND FILE **status report on investigations at the Wardlow Blue Line Station.**

**ISSUE**

At the May 26 2016 Metro Board meeting, by Motion of Directors Garcetti, Knabe, DuBois and Dupont-Walker and related to Item 30 of the Board agenda (Attachment A), the Board directed the CEO to provide a June update with regard to capital projects (Item A of attachment A) at the Wardlow Station and to report back in August 2016 with regard to items B through E shown on Attachment A). This report responds to the Board direction.

**DISCUSSION**

The items of the Board motion to be addressed in this report are as follows:

Item B. Initiate a feasibility study to improve safety and security for the Blue Line Wardlow Station and a pilot fare gate program at 4 (four) downtown Long Beach stations.

- **Safety:** A review of the safety of the Wardlow grade crossing will be performed. We will compare the numbers of incidents (pedestrian or vehicle) at the crossing and compare it to all other MBL crossings thus obtaining an objective ranking of the crossing from a safety standpoint. Note that the MBL Pedestrian Gates project in construction at this time will have completed the two crossings in the City of Long Beach, Spring St. and Wardlow Rd., by Mid October 2016, resulting in better protection and a reduction of the likelihood of a pedestrian accident at these two crossings.
- **Traffic Impacts:** Perform a review of the impacts on the roadway traffic at the crossing, including the impact of the close proximity of the I-405 ramps: We will review and analyze any traffic back up at the crossing, which might be occurring, in particular during peak hours.

- Metro Grade Separation Policy: Rate the Wardlow at-grade crossing based on Metro's adopted grade separation policy in comparison to other MBL stations at-grade crossings.
- Feasibility: Evaluate the feasibility from an Engineering standpoint. Develop alternative designs for improvement of the crossing including conceptual designs for grade separation that will consider the two options: underpass or overpass: Challenges to be technically reviewed include:
  - Avoiding interference by the new structure with I-405 Freeway, as this will add a high complexity and cost to the project,
  - Developing a concept that leaves the new structure within our ROW to avoid any new ROW acquisitions,
  - Minimizing the disruptions to Operations during construction: Developing a design which will leave room to build a temporary shoe-fly to be able to continue normal operations during construction, thus avoiding the need of bussing our patrons
  - Performing utilities investigations to determine the extent of utilities relocations or protections that might be needed for the project
  - Evaluating if the new structure impacts the existing Park & Ride lot which might require a temporary Park & Ride.
- Security: The MBL stations enhancements project, which construction was completed in November 2015, has improved the security at all MBL stations, including the Wardlow station: New CCTV have been added and new LED fixtures have substantially improved the stations' lighting
- Gating Feasibility of Gating five (5) Blue Line Stations: Metro's gating team has developed a plan to study gate feasibility for five Long Beach Blue Line stations: Wardlow, 5th Street, 1st Street, Downtown Long Beach, and Pacific stations. The first step is to conduct a detailed engineering analysis and results are expected by mid Sept 2016. Once the analysis is complete we will review the results and develop engineering plans and cost estimates for those stations that can be gated.

Item C. Prioritize the Wardlow Grade Separation project to receive new funding and/or grants and assign this project to be included in MTA's State of Good Repair, Safety Improvements, and Aging Infrastructure program.

Establishing a priority for funding of a grade separation will be considered as part of the capital budgeting process as well as in the identification of projects for grant application consideration. Once the project is better defined through the studies described above it will be included in the State of Good Repair, Safety Improvements, and Aging Infrastructure program.

Item D. Include the Wardlow Station as part of MTA's "Transit Oriented Communities" pilot projects.

Pending the results of a scheduled meeting with the City of Long Beach Development Services staff regarding opportunities for collaboration between Metro and the City, the Wardlow Station Area will be added to the Metro TOC Pilot program.

Item E. Identify Transit Oriented Development and other land use and development opportunities to maximize the use of Wardlow Station.

Metro Joint Development staff has performed a preliminary assessment in preparation for the meeting with City Development Services staff. Additional analysis will be conducted based upon the results of that meeting.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Adoption of the recommendation to receive and file this report will not create a financial impact to the agency.

Impact to Budget

The technical and engineering feasibility study will be prepared in house by Metro Engineering. However should this result in a project, an LOP will be developed and submitted to the Board approval for all phases of the project including Planning, Environmental Clearance, Preliminary Engineering (PE) Development and Construction.

**NEXT STEPS**

With receipt of this report by the Board, staff will pursue the activities as described above. Completion of the feasibility study described in B above is anticipated to occur by March 2017. The other activities are on-going and the status will be reported periodically.

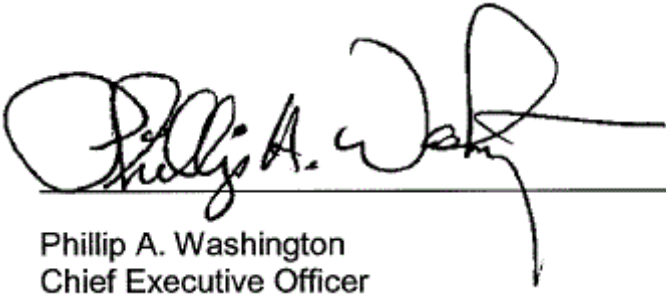
**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A - May 26, 2016 Motion (File #:2016-0487)

Attachment B - June 29, 2016 Board Box regarding Blue Line Art Installations

Prepared by: Calvin Hollis, Executive Officer, Countywide Planning, (213) 922-7319  
Sam Mayman, Executive Officer, Engineering Mgmt. (213) 922-7289

Reviewed by: Therese W. McMillan, Chief Planning Officer, (213) 922-7077



Phillip A. Washington  
Chief Executive Officer



## Board Report

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**MAY 26, 2016  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Motion by:**

**Garcetti, Knabe, DuBois and Dupont-Walker**

May 26, 2016

**Relating to Item 30; File ID 2016-0357  
Blue Line Station & Security Enhancements**

Safety and security will continue to be a top MTA priority in the development of rail projects across Los Angeles County.

The MTA CEO has prioritized safety and security reinvestments along all our existing MTA rail lines throughout the County.

For example, MTA is working on making major investments on the Blue Line to improve safety and security measures, along with State of Good Repair capital improvements. Once complete, close to \$300 million (not including rail vehicles) will be invested in the Blue Line.

A recent study issued by the University of California Berkeley (*Grading California's Rail Station Areas*, October 2015) ranked and graded rail stations from six cities in California for accessibility, connections to housing, walkability, and safety.

The study ranked the Blue Line Wardlow Station as one of the worst stations in Los Angeles County and in the State of California.

The Wardlow Station area is generally auto-dominated and lacks the concentrations of jobs or housing. Additionally, the rail crossing is complex and the parking lots are without significant pedestrian activity.

Better station area development can improve and address the environmental and quality-of-life needs surrounding the station.

Additionally, due to the current station configuration, improvements to the rail crossing intersection are warranted.

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WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board direct the CEO to report back on the following:

- A. Provide an update at the June 2016 MTA Board meeting on all Blue Line Safety and Security and State of Good Repair capital projects and enhancement efforts, including, but not limited to, the following:
1. Grade crossing gates
  2. Pedestrian safety gates
  3. Fare enforcement and security
  4. Station maintenance
  5. Station fare gate installation
- B. Initiate a feasibility study to improve safety and security for the Blue Line Wardlow Station and a pilot fare gate program at 4 (four) downtown Long Beach stations.
- C. Prioritize the Wardlow Grade Separation project to receive new funding and/or grants and assign this project to be included in MTA's State of Good Repair, Safety Improvements, and Aging Infrastructure program.
- D. Include the Wardlow Station as part of MTA's "Transit Oriented Communities" pilot projects.
- E. Identify Transit Oriented Development and other land use and development opportunities to maximize the use of Wardlow Station.
- F. Provide a response and report back on items B through E at the August 2016 MTA Board meeting.

**AMENDMENT by Fasana to include the artwork along the Blue Line.**

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**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel  
metro.net

**June 29, 2016**

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**FROM: THERESE W. McMILLAN  
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: METRO BLUE LINE STATION AND SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS  
RESPONSE TO BOARD MOTION**

### **ISSUE**

At the May 26, 2016 meeting, the Board approved a motion directing that the Chief Executive Officer report back with an update on Blue Line Safety and State of Good Repair Capital projects and enhancement efforts which included an update on the artwork along the Blue Line (Attachment A). This report provides the requested status on the artwork.

### **DISCUSSION**

The artworks along the Blue Line are now approaching their 25<sup>th</sup> year and like other assets in the Metro system are subject to wear and tear of time and use, the marine environment and ultraviolet (UV) sun quotient. With the Blue Line Refurbishment project, some of the artworks were removed. Through the FY 16 Capital budget, funding to reinstall these artworks has been secured. In addition to these capital projects, the FY 17 budget includes funding to inspect artworks at five Blue Line stations and to identify any necessary actions necessary to bring them into a State of Good Repair. Staff is also preparing to submit a request for the FY 18 Capital budget to repair the artwork in the Blue Line tunnel. Attachment B identifies the current and future State of Good Repair Capital projects.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will continue to manage the implementation of currently resourced Metro Blue Line art conservation and refurbishments and will provide an annual report on the state of Metro's public artworks in February 2017 as directed by the Board.

Metro



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**ATTACHMENT B**

**Metro Blue Line Current and Planned Capital Projects (Artwork)**

**Current**

Artwork Refurbishment at three stations (Grand, 103 <sup>rd</sup> /Watts Towers, 5 <sup>th</sup> Street)	Funds secured through the FY 16 Capital budget. Scope in development to refurbish artwork at these three stations with contracts scheduled for award Fall 2016
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**Planned**

Refurbish Tunnel Artwork and Develop Art Asset Management Plan	Capital Project – funds will be requested in the FY 17 Capital budget to refurbish 25+ year old artwork that is no longer functioning.
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