

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: February 23, 2009

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION URGING THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO AMEND THE DRAFT 2009 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY TO EXPEDITE FUNDING FOR THE GOLD LINE FOOTHILL EXTENSION PROJECT AT A LEVEL NECESSARY TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN 2010, AND THAT THE METRO BOARD APPROVE THE FUND TRANSFER AGREEMENT TO THE METRO GOLD LINE FOOTHILL EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that City Council adopt a resolution urging the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors to amend the draft 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for Los Angeles County to expedite funding for the Gold Line Foothill Extension Project at level necessary to begin construction in 2010, and that the Metro Board approve the fund transfer agreement to the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority.

BACKGROUND

On April 14, 2008, the City Council approved a resolution urging the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors to include the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension as a funded project in the 2008 LRTP for Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) updated their LRTP which is a guide to transportation development in the county through the year 2030, and it recommends what can be done to address those impacts within anticipated revenues (Recommended Draft Plan), as well as what could be done if additional revenues become available (Strategic Unfunded Plan).


The Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension to Azusa is not included in the Recommend Plan, but is included on the Strategic Unfunded Plan and could receive funding if additional funds were available to Metro beyond those forecasted for projects in the Recommended Plan. In July 2008, the Metro Board of Directors authorized placing Measure R a half-cent sales tax before voters to fund transportation projects. Measure R passed along with other statewide transportation funding initiatives which was intended to provide necessary funding for the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension. After reviewing the draft LRTP that was re-released in December, Metro plans to delay the opening of the line to 2017.

Staff has prepared a resolution for the City Council's consideration to urge the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors to expedite funding to 2010, so the line can be fully operational in December 2013.

FISCAL IMPACT


The proposed Metro Draft LRTP would have no fiscal impact for the City.

Respectfully submitted:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Prepared by:



Mark Yamarone
Transportation Administrator

Approved by:



Frederick C. Dock
Director of Transportation

RESOLUTION NO. _____

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION URGING THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO AMEND THE DRAFT 2009 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY TO EXPEDITE FUNDING FOR THE GOLD LINE FOOTHILL EXTENSION PROJECT AT A LEVEL NECESSARY TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN 2010, AND THAT THE METRO BOARD APPROVE THE FUND TRANSFER AGREEMENT TO THE METRO GOLD LINE FOOTHILL EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Foothill Extension project is of critical importance to our city and its residents; and;

WHEREAS, the voters passed Measure R in November 2008 by over 66.6% with a clear directive to Metro to use the tax revenue to build projects that could reduce congestion, improve air quality, and expand public transit options for all areas of the county, including a minimum of \$758 million to construct the Foothill Extension project to Claremont; and

WHEREAS, the nation and the county are currently experiencing an unprecedented recession, with job losses growing and economic development slowing; and

WHEREAS, the Foothill Extension project is ready to be built – having its environment documents approved, right of way purchased, engineering and design at the stage necessary for design/build procurement, and all cities along the corridor with signed agreements to move forward – and no other rail transit project close to this stage in the process.

WHEREAS, the draft LRTP currently includes funding for the Foothill Extension at the latest point necessary to meet the commitments made to the voters, resulting in an unnecessary four year delay in the project; while expediting funding for other projects years ahead of what voters understood when they voted to approve the new tax.

WHEREAS, the Foothill Extension could begin construction within 10 months, creating over 37,000 jobs during construction, 3,500 permanent jobs during the first 20 years of operation, and more than 500,000 construction-related jobs to build transit-oriented developments – generating an estimated \$40 billion in economic benefits for our region.

WHEREAS, the Foothill Extension can be operational in 2013, adding more than 3.3 million passengers every year to the Metro system by extending the line just to Azusa (a four-year delay results in a loss of more than 13 million rides on the system);

WHEREAS, the Foothill Extension is included in SCAG's air quality conformity model as completed in 2008, an important component for our region's air quality attainment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasadena City Council urges the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors to amend the draft 2009 LRTP to expedite funding for the Foothill Extension project at the level necessary to begin construction in 2010, and that the Board approve the Fund Transfer Agreement to allow funds to be transferred to the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority as soon as deemed necessary to meet this expedited schedule.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of _____,

2009 by the following votes:

AYES:


NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MARK JOMSKY
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



2/17/09

NICHOLAS G. RODRIGUEZ
Assistant City Attorney