



Expo

Exposition Metro Line
Construction Authority

707 Wilshire Boulevard
34th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

213.243.5500
BuildExpo.org

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DATE: JUNE 7, 2007

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM: RICHARD D. THORPE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATE ON EXPO AUTHORITY FEDERAL
LOBBYIST OPTIONS**

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file an update on Expo Authority Federal Lobbyist options. Staff will return to the Board with a shortlist of possible lobbyist candidates at the next Board meeting.

SUMMARY

At the May Board meeting, the Board asked staff to report back with the names of possible candidates who could provide federal lobbying assistance for the Exposition Light Rail Project. The Board expressed a desire to add lobbyist support to the Metro federal lobbying team that would focus on the Expo project. The Board also indicated that they wanted to be involved in the selection of the additional lobbyist support and would work directly with the Metro and Expo CEOs.

Since then, Authority staff has worked with the Cities of Los Angeles and Culver City, as well as the County of Los Angeles, to identify candidates who may be interested in joining the Metro federal advocacy team to lobby for the Expo Project. Staff has also coordinated with Metro government relations to compile a comprehensive list of possible candidates who would be able to advocate effectively on behalf of this project. Metro CEO Roger Snoble has indicated that he would seek funding for additional Expo lobbyist support and request the Metro Board to amend their existing lobbyist contract. In the meantime, Authority Staff will work with Metro to narrow the list of potential lobbyists to three (3) candidates for Board consideration.

DISCUSSION

Since the last Board meeting, Expo staff has worked with federal advocates from the City of Los Angeles, City of Culver City, Los Angeles County and Metro, to solicit input regarding potential lobbyists to work on the Exposition Light Rail Project. Staff has developed a list of potential candidates and continues to work with Metro government relations to solicit input and garner feedback on potential candidates.

Expo staff has developed the attached scope of work to send out to potential candidates once the list is finalized. After responses are received, staff will evaluate the responses and bring back a shortlist of candidates for the Board to interview at a subsequent meeting.

Based on discussions with Metro, City and County representatives, it is estimated that the annual cost of additional lobbyist support would be in the range of \$60,000 to \$80,000 depending on the level of experience, size of the firm, etc. The Metro CEO has indicated that he will seek funding for such support from the Metro Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None, should the Metro Board approve additional funding.

NEXT STEPS

Expo staff will continue to work with Metro staff to compile a list of possible candidates. When funding for the additional Expo lobbyist support is approved, staff will invite a shortlist of potential candidates for the Board to interview.

ATTACHMENT (S)

[A. Lobbyist Scope of Work](#)