



Metro

**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
MAY 20, 2009**

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MAY 21, 2009**

SUBJECT: METRO GOLD LINE FOOTHILL EXTENSION RAILYARD STATUS

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file status report.

ISSUE

At the April 2009 Metro Board Meeting a motion was made by Director Fasana regarding the environmental clearance and property acquisition to construct a rail maintenance facility within the City of Irwindale.

Director Fasana's motion seeks to: A) confirm Metro's commitment to the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority (MGLFECA)'s acquisition of a site to construct a rail maintenance facility and reimbursement to the MGLFECA by Metro for all yard acquisition costs; B) commit Metro to providing community outreach support to the MGLFECA for yard acquisition-related activities; and C) direct Metro's CEO to report to the Construction Committee in May 2009 on the MGLFECA timetable for extending the Gold Line to Azusa by December 2013. In response, the Board voted to refer the Fasana motion to the May Planning and Programming and Operations committee meetings.

BACKGROUND

With respect to Item A of the motion, we have presented a series of three committee reports regarding rail facility needs and site assessments, the last being to the February 2009 Measure R Project Delivery Committee. Specifically, the February report recommended acquiring property for rail car storage and light maintenance along the Gold Line Foothill Extension and other lines, as well as a central yard for heavy maintenance and general system wide storage. The report included two potential sites that would serve the Gold Line Foothill Extension within the City of Irwindale. It should be noted that construction of a

maintenance and storage facility to serve the Gold Line Foothill Extension could also help serve general systemwide growth on the Gold Line.

The Measure R Expenditure Plan shows an estimated completion date for the Gold Line Foothill Extension in 2015-2017. In the February report to the Measure R Project Delivery Committee, we estimated that site acquisition including environmental clearance would take two to three years under a best case acquisition scenario. It would be critical for the yard to be environmentally cleared, acquired, and constructed as part of the opening of the Foothill Extension. We expect site acquisition costs to be paid for out of Measure R funds. We have summarized a number of issues that need resolution related to acquisition of a yard site and the overall Gold Line Foothill Extension project implementation (See Attachment A).

With respect to Item B of the motion, we will provide community outreach support as necessary to the MGLFECA within the cities of Irwindale and Duarte and areas adjacent to the potential site. Regarding Item C, the feasibility of accelerating the Foothill Extension schedule for a 2013 opening will be assessed as part of the Metro Long Range Transportation Plan financial forecasting component to be presented to the Board in June 2009.

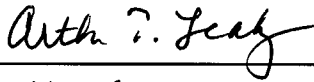
NEXT STEPS

We will coordinate with the MGLFECA regarding environmental assessment of the potential yard site(s) and for resolution of the issues listed in Attachment A. We will also discuss an outreach plan and schedule in conjunction with the MGLFECA.

Prepared by: Philbert Wong, Transportation Planning Manager
Shahrazad Amiri, Deputy Executive Officer

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Carol Inge
Chief Planning Officer

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Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT A

ISSUES REQUIRING RESOLUTION – GOLD LINE FOOTHILL EXTENSION

1. Who will be the lead agency for the environmental assessment and site acquisition for the yard?
2. What is the timeframe for beginning and completing the environmental assessment process for the yard?
3. Incorporation into Long Range Transportation Plan:
 - a. Project schedule – when is the start of construction and opening date?
 - b. Funding schedule - when will funding become available for construction and operations?
 - c. Where is the eastern terminus of the project given the \$735 million Measure R allocation?
4. What is the construction management approach and who will be construction lead to build the line?