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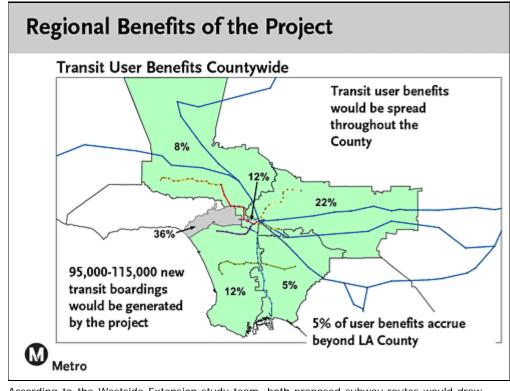
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According to the Westside Extension study team, both proposed subway routes would draw riders from throughout Los Angeles County.

# Two Proposed Routes for 'Subway to Sea' Unveiled Tonight in Public Meetings

By NED RACINE, Editor

(Sept. 3, 2008) Beginning tonight, Metro's <u>Westside Extension</u> study team will unveil two proposed routes for the "subway to the sea" at public meetings.

At five outreach meetings in September, the study team will present the two most promising subway alternatives that have emerged after a yearlong study. The team will also present station locations, estimated ridership and estimated budgets for the two routes.

One route, estimated to cost approximately \$6.1 billion, would extend the Metro Purple Line from Wilshire/Western Station to Fourth Street in Santa Monica. The 13-mile alignment would pass through Century City and Westwood, both high employment areas.

The other route would cost an estimated \$9 billion and supplement the Wilshire route. This route would include a branch starting at the Hollywood/Highland Station on the Metro Red Line and travel underneath West Hollywood, primarily following Santa Monica Boulevard to La Cienega or San Vicente boulevards before rejoining the Wilshire alignment in Beverly Hills and heading west.

The "subway to the sea" project remains unfunded. Of the estimated \$40 billion to be generated by Measure R over 30 years, some of that money may be available for the subway. If Measure R does not reach the November ballot, Metro has said it will continue to seek money to build the subway.

David Mieger, the study's project manager, estimates that the combined subway extension project would generate between 272,000 to 292,000 daily boardings when joined with the combined Metro Red Line/Metro Purple Line system.

Later this year, Metro staff will present their recommendations to the Board of Directors and request authorization to continue analyzing these options through the environmental process. Approximately two more years of studies and engineering would be needed before construction could begin.

Here are the times and locations for the September meetings:

- Wednesday, Sept. 3, 6 8 p.m.: Santa Monica Public Library
- Thursday, Sept. 4, 6 8 p.m.: West Hollywood Plummer Park
- Saturday, Sept. 6, 2- 4 p.m.: Beverly Hills Public Library
- Monday, Sept. 8, 6 8 p.m.: LACMA West
- Wednesday, Sept. 10, 6 8 p.m.: Westwood Presbyterian Church

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