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[Item 7:](#)
Regional Connector alternative shows trains arriving at an at-grade station in the median of Flower Street, just south of Third Street.

Next steps for major bus and rail projects, financial impact of state budget and stimulus package top committee agendas for January

- Consideration of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Item 9, on the Planning and Programming Committee agenda, has been withdrawn from January review. Directors will wait to review the impact of the federal infrastructure stimulus package and the state budget.

In this report:

- [Item 6:](#) Approving the Westside Extension Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis Study
- [Item 7:](#) Approving the Regional Connector Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis Study
- [Item 8:](#) Approving the Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Alternatives Analysis Study
- [Item 15:](#) Report on the structural deficit from the Chief Financial Services Officer
- [Item 17:](#) Amend the FY09 Budget

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Jan. 13, 2008) During their January meetings, Board committees will review staff recommendations for approval of alternative analysis studies for various bus and rail projects.

Metro's Alternatives Analysis studies are the first step in the environmental clearance process. The Metro Board of Directors will

January Committee Meetings

Wednesday, Jan. 14

1 p.m. – Planning and Programming

2:30 p.m. – Finance and Budget

Thursday, Jan. 15

9:00 a.m. – Executive Management and Audit

10:30 a.m. – Construction

determine whether to move the project forward to subsequent environmental review stages based in part on the results of these studies.

The Finance and Budget Committee will receive an update on the status of the structural deficit, which projects a \$2.4 billion operating deficit in light of the 10-year financial forecast.

12 noon – Operations
Thursday, Jan. 22
 9:30 a.m. – Regular Board Meeting

Item 6: Westside Extension Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis Study

The Planning and Programming Committee will weigh staff's recommendation to approve the Westside Extension Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis Study, which identified two alternative fixed guideways. Alternative #1 would extend the Metro Purple Line along Wilshire Boulevard 12.2 miles to Ocean Boulevard in Santa Monica at an estimated cost of \$6.1 billion.

Alternative #11 would extend the Metro Purple Line along Wilshire Boulevard and extend the Metro Red Line from Hollywood along Santa Monica Boulevard for a total of 16.7 miles at a projected cost of \$9 billion. The cost-effectiveness of each alternative is expected to be improved in the DEIS phase based on refined construction costs and ridership projections.



Connections: Map from study illustrates Metro System connections of proposed Westside Extension.

Item 7: Regional Connector Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis Study

The Planning and Programming Committee will consider staff's recommendation to approve selected alternatives for further environmental analysis for transit improvements in the downtown corridor. The Regional Connector Transit Corridor project proposes to link the currently unconnected regional branches of Metro's light rail system together in the downtown area.

The proposed Regional Connector would directly link 7th St./Metro Center Station to the Little Tokyo/Arts District Station. The project would allow train operations between Long Beach and Pasadena without the need to transfer. It would also allow train operations between Long Beach and Pasadena without the need to transfer and provide passengers with direct trains into the heart of the business and civic districts. Metrolink, Amtrak and Metro Red Line passengers would have the option to transfer.

As proposed, the Regional Connector can be accomplished with 1.8 miles of a new set of dual tracks.

Item 8: Metro Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Alternatives Analysis Study

The Planning and Programming Committee will consider staff's

recommendation to approve the four light rail alternatives determined in the initial Alternatives Analysis Study for further study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (DEIS/DEIR).

The Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 project seeks to improve mobility in the study area that includes 13 cities and communities in an 80-square-mile area challenged by future growth and traffic on highly congested freeways and arterial streets.

Item 15: Structural deficit update

The Finance and Budget Committee will receive a report from the Chief Financial Services Officer on the status of the structural deficit, which projects a \$2.4 billion operating deficit in light of the 10-year financial forecast.

Item 17: Amend the FY09 Budget

The Finance and Budget Committee will consider a combination of measures proposed to mitigate the \$136.3 million shortfall in the FY09 budget, which included \$227.2 of State Transit Assistance revenue based on the forecast by the State Controller in January 2008. That amount was decreased to \$90.9 million in the budget adopted by the State in September, resulting in the shortfall of \$136.3 million.

Measures include transferring \$23 million of Prop A, Prop C and General Fund balances to pay interest on outstanding debt as a result of the continuing volatility in the financial markets.