

Chief Planning Officer's Report Countywide Planning & Development

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Metro Rapid System Gap Closure Project

- On September 15, 2006 Metro submitted three applications for Federal small starts project funding.
- FTA has recommended one of the three projects for the Very Small Starts Program: completing Metro's Rapid Bus Network.
- Our request was for \$16.7 million to implement the final 8 lines of Metro's adopted Rapid Bus network.
- FY08 President's budget includes \$16.7 million in Very Small Starts funds for this project.

Metro Rapid System Gap Closure Project (Cont'd)

- Metro's Small Starts project was one of only four projects nationwide recommended for funding.
- Funding is not finalized until adoption of the Federal budget

USDOT Urban Partnership

- USDOT has introduced a new initiative to relieve congestion called Urban Partnership program.
- Purpose is for USDOT to enter into Urban Partnership agreements in order to demonstrate strategies with a combined track record of effectiveness in reducing traffic congestion.
- USDOT to select up to 10 partners nationwide
- Proposed congestion relief strategies must include four types of projects: transit, telecommuting, technology and tolling.

USDOT Urban Partnership (Cont'd)

- Approximately \$100-\$135 million may be available for three years under several discretionary programs for specific projects with metropolitan areas that have an Urban Partnership Agreement.
- Applications due April 30, 2007
- Metro to prepare and submit proposals as the lead agency for LA Region
- Metro's potential partners include LADOT, LA County, Caltrans, SCAG, Port of LA, Port of Long Beach and City of Long Beach

Wilshire Boulevard Bus Speed Improvement Program

Metro and LADOT staff have identified a system of bus speed improvement projects along the Wilshire corridor that significantly improve bus passenger travel times.

- Project limits are downtown Los Angeles to downtown Santa Monica
 - Anticipated improvements in both Metro Rapid and local bus speeds range from 18% to 35% westbound, and 18% to 23% eastbound
 - Construction cost estimate is \$25 to \$100 million
 - Operating cost savings are estimated at \$2.0 million, annually

Wilshire Boulevard Bus Speed Improvement Program (Cont'd)

- Categories of bus speed improvement projects include:
 - Modifications to increase transit signal priority and traffic signal timing
 - Bus only/right turn lanes at selected intersections
 - Minor arterial improvements, pavement repairs and turning restrictions
- Next Step is to refine construction cost estimate
- Funding could come from Wilshire BRT project