



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 4, 2009
Item Number: E-2
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director of Transportation *AK*
Subject: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS ADOPTING THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS MASS TRANSIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS DATED JANUARY 2007 AND SUPPORTING THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE WESTSIDE SUBWAY EXTENSION BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Mass Transit Committee Report (under separate cover)

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the resolution adopting the City of Beverly Hills Mass Transit Committee recommendations and supporting the Westside Subway Extension through Beverly Hills.

INTRODUCTION

In September 2009, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is scheduled to consider two items: 1) Including the Westside Subway Extension in the "funded" element of the Long Range Plan, and 2) Identifying the Westside Subway Extension, along with the downtown Light Rail connector, as the two top priority projects for Metro's advocacy efforts for federal New Starts funding. Metro is also preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Westside Subway Extension project with the goal of identifying a "Locally Preferred Alternative" in 2010.

Previously, the City Council has supported the Westside Subway Extension, including the adoption of a resolution in 2006 supporting the Westside Cities Council of Governments advocacy efforts for mobility efforts for the Westside, including a subway extension to serve "Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and West Los Angeles." In February

2009, the City Council adopted a legislative platform that included pursuing funding for the Westside Subway Extension. In 2007, the City Council appointed Mass Transit Committee unanimously recommended to the City Council a Wilshire Boulevard alignment with stations at La Cienega Boulevard and Beverly Drive. The attached resolution would serve as an updated advocacy tool for pursuing funding for the Westside Subway Extension and would formalize the Mass Transit Committee's recommendations with respect to a preferred alignment and station locations.

DISCUSSION

In 2006, the City Council appointed an 18-member Mass Transit Committee to "develop recommendations to the City Council regarding route alignments and station locations for a possible Westside Subway Extension within Beverly Hills." While the Metro Board is the decision making body regarding route alignment and station locations, the Committee was formed to provide input to the City Council before Metro began its formal planning process. The Mass Transit Committee presented its Final Report on January 9, 2007, with a unanimous recommendation for a Wilshire Boulevard alignment with stations at La Cienega Boulevard and Beverly Drive. The Committee unanimously acknowledged the need and benefits of a Westside Subway Extension to serve the City of Beverly Hills.

The City Council adopted a resolution on January 9, 2007, receiving the final report and appreciating the efforts of the Mass Transit Committee. At the time, the Westside Cities Council of Governments all agreed that individual cities would not take a formal position with respect to route alignments and stations locations until Metro completed its Alternatives Analysis. The Alternatives Analysis, adopted by the Metro Board in January 2009, includes two route alignments that are currently being analyzed as part of the draft EIS/EIR:

1. A Metro Purple Line extension from the Wilshire/Western station via Wilshire Boulevard to Santa Monica
2. A Metro Purple Line extension the Wilshire/Western station via Wilshire Boulevard to Santa Monica plus a Metro Red Line Extension from the Hollywood/Highland station to a future Wilshire/La Cienega station.

Metro staff's recommendation for the Long Range Transportation Plan is for the Metro Purple Line to be extended via Wilshire Boulevard to Fairfax Avenue by 2019; to Century City by 2026 and to Westwood by 2036. There is not a recommendation for the Metro Red Line Extension from the Hollywood/Highland station. Meeting those milestones is contingent on award of sufficient federal funds.

The Mass Transit Committee recommendations for an alignment and station locations within Beverly Hills are consistent with both route alignments being studied in the draft EIS/EIR. With completion of the Alternatives Analysis, the City of Beverly Hills has met its agreement with the Westside Cities and can now take a formal position on route alignments and station locations. The Chamber of Commerce has requested that the City adopt the Mass Transit Committee recommendations.

An interdepartmental City staff team led by the Transportation Division of the Public Works & Transportation Department is working with Metro's team in developing the draft

EIS/EIR. At this time, the team is analyzing the technical requirements of the station locations and tunneling feasibility of the two route alignments.

Metro is providing quarterly community updates while the draft EIS/EIR is developed. The Transportation Division will also provide updates to the City Council, to the Traffic & Parking, Planning, and Public Works Commissions. Specifics of stations locations (e.g., portal locations) are anticipated to be available in Winter/Spring of 2010. Ultimately, the City would need to include the project in the General Plan in order for it to be competitive for federal funding. The current General Plan adoption schedule currently plans for the circulation element also in Winter/Spring 2010. The adoption of the resolution is intended to show the City's interest in the project in the interim.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact in adopting this resolution. Metro would negotiate with the City for a portion of construction costs when developing funding agreements for the portion of the Subway between Fairfax Avenue and Century City.



David Gustavson

Approved By

Attachment 1

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 09-R-_____

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS ADOPTING THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS MASS TRANSIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS DATED JANUARY 2007 AND SUPPORTING THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE WESTSIDE SUBWAY EXTENSION BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills City Council created the Mass Transit Committee (“Committee”) composed of Beverly Hills residents and key stakeholders in May 2006 to study the traffic and environmental impacts of the future Westside Subway Extension through the City of Beverly Hills (“City”);

WHEREAS, the Committee was charged with developing recommendations regarding a route alignment and station locations for the future Westside Subway Extension;

WHEREAS, the Committee conducted bi-monthly meetings, participated in site visits, and reviewed technical industry reports regarding alignment and station location options for the Westside Subway Extension, and hosted a Town Hall meeting with the City in November 2006 for public information and input;

WHEREAS, the Beverly Hills City Council received and filed the Mass Transit Committee Final Report in January 2007;

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority/Metro (“Metro”) is the lead regional transportation agency for the Westside Subway Extension project responsible for planning, development, construction and operation of the subway;

WHEREAS, Metro facilitated planning meetings with City staff and conducted community meetings for public outreach to develop the Locally Preferred Alternative Analysis Report;

WHEREAS, Metro adopted a Locally Preferred Alternative Analysis Report in January 2009; and

WHEREAS, a partnership between the City of Beverly Hills and Metro will strengthen the opportunities to promote the construction of the Westside Subway Extension and seek federal and/or all necessary funding sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Beverly Hills does hereby resolve as follows:

Section 1. The City supports the Westside Subway Extension to serve the City of Beverly Hills and advocacy efforts for federal and all other funding sources.

Section 2. The City formally adopts the City Mass Transit Committee Final Report dated January 2007 including the following recommendations for the planning, development, construction and operation of the Westside Subway Extension:

(a) The Mass Transit Committee unanimously acknowledged the need and benefits of a Westside Subway Extension to serve the City of Beverly Hills.

(b) The Mass Transit Committee unanimously recommended a Wilshire Boulevard alignment extending west under Wilshire Boulevard from the existing station at Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue in Los Angeles through City to Century City and beyond, preferably with the alignment at the west end of City continuing under Wilshire Boulevard and then veering southwest under Santa Monica Boulevard to Century Boulevard rather than under commercial and residential properties.

(c) The Mass Transit Committee unanimously recommended two stations within the City, one located at or near Beverly Drive and Wilshire Boulevard at the west end of the City and the other located at or near La Cienega Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard at the east end of the City.

(d) The Mass Transit Committee unanimously determined that the recommended station locations appear feasible as to the construction of the stations and manageable with respect to operations, security and potential disruption during the construction phase.

Section 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and shall cause this resolution and his certification to be entered in the Book of Resolutions of the Council of this City. The City Clerk shall also forward a copy of this Resolution to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority/Metro.

Adopted:

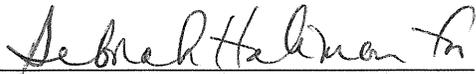
NANCY KRASNE
Mayor of the City of
Beverly Hills, California

[Signatures continue]

ATTEST:

_____ (SEAL)
BYRON POPE
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



LAURENCE S. WIENER
City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



DAVID D. GUSTAVSON
Director of Public Works &
Transportation

Attachment 2

Mass Transit Committee Report
(under separate cover)