



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: February 15, 2011
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director of Transportation *ak*
Subject: Request by Councilmember Mirisch to Review City's Position on Metro's 30-10 Initiative
Attachments: 1. City Council Advocacy Letters

INTRODUCTION

Councilmember Mirisch has requested City Council review of the City's position supporting the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro's) "30-10" initiative in light of Metro's study of an alignment that tunnels under Beverly Hills High School.

DISCUSSION

In recent years the City Council's legislative platform has called for advocacy to support the Westside Subway Extension and funding to expedite construction, including Measure R (1/2 cent sales tax approved by voters in November 2008) and Metro's 30-10 initiative. Metro's 30-10 initiative is a request to the federal government to 'loan' future Measure R funds to expedite construction of regional transportation projects. If approved by Congress, the entire Westside Subway Extension to Westwood could potentially be constructed by 2022. Metro's Long Range Transportation, without 30-10, calls for construction of the Westside Subway Extension to Century City by 2026 and Westwood by 2036.

In October 2009, the Metro Board adopted the Westside Subway Extension Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR). For the route from Beverly Hills to Century City, the Metro Board approved two alignments to be studied as part of the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/FEIR) as follows:

- "Santa Monica Boulevard Alignment" would tunnel from Beverly Hills under Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards to a Century City station located on or near Santa Monica Boulevard and Avenue of the Stars, adjacent to Century City shopping Center. The Beverly Hills City Council has strongly supported this alignment.

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- "Constellation Boulevard Alignment" would tunnel under Lasky Drive and Beverly Hills High School to a Century City station located at or near Constellation Boulevard and Avenue of the Stars. The Beverly Hills City Council has strongly opposed this alignment.

Metro currently plans to adopt the FEIS/FEIR in August 2011, including selection of one of the two alignments to Century City.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time. Should the City Council decide to engage services of a professional, funding would have to be identified.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council review the City's position on Metro's 30-10 initiative.


FOR David Gustavson
Approved By

ATTACHMENT 1



John A. Mirisch, Councilmember

October 14, 2010

Honorable Don Knabe
Chair, Metro Board of Directors
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority – Metro
One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-3
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Dear Supervisor Knabe,

As a Member of the Beverly Hills City Council, resident and a representative of our Community, I am writing to express my views regarding the Westside Subway Extension.

The Beverly Hills City Council will be submitting a formal letter outlining our City's position prior to the end of the MTA comment period. However, I want to take this advance opportunity to provide my comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Report. My views are based on numerous conversations with residents of Beverly Hills who have shared their views with me at public meetings, through correspondence or e-mail, and personal conversations.

Firstly, I would like to express my support for the Westside Subway Extension, which will provide tremendous benefits to our region by providing improved transportation options to key employment and visitor destinations on the Westside. I commend Metro's leadership in this venture, and am an enthusiastic supporter of the '30/10' plan to accelerate the Subway initiative throughout Los Angeles County.

However, I would like to make it clear that my support for the Subway Extension and the '30/10' plan is predicated on Metro's choosing the alignment of the Westside Subway Extension along Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards through Beverly Hills, the route for which the City Council has already indicated support. Furthermore, I'd like to register my unqualified opposition to any alignment that would pass underneath the Beverly Hills High School site and nearby residential neighborhoods. While we all know that even the best laid plans of EIR's cannot provide guarantees for all eventualities, I am particularly concerned about the potential impacts the so-called Constellation alignment would have upon our children and our High School, which is one of the historical treasures of our Community. The alignment under Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards would result in fewer negative impacts upon our residential neighborhoods, Beverly Hills High School and our children -- in addition to being less expensive. The choice should be both clear-cut and self-evident.

Finally, I support the location of a proposed station on Wilshire and La Cienega Boulevards on the East side of the intersection, as this would locate the station in the center of commercial uses in the area, and would oppose any other potential locations, particularly to the West side of the intersection. I understand that the Metro staff has also recommended a station location to the East of La Cienega, and am happy to support this recommendation.

I hope you will take the very serious concerns of our Community into account when making your decisions. Again, I thank you and your colleagues in advance for this opportunity to share our Community's position on these significant issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Mirisch", written in a cursive style.

John Mirisch, Councilmember
City of Beverly Hills

Cc: Metro Board Members



Jimmy Delshad, Mayor

April 20, 2010

Ara Najarian, Chair
Metro Board of Directors
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Dear Chair Najarian:

The City of Beverly Hills City Council unanimously supports the Westside Subway Extension with stations on Wilshire Boulevard at La Cienega Boulevard and Rodeo Drive. The City of Beverly Hills also supports the "30/10" initiative to expedite construction of this important project and we urge the Metro Board to take a formal position in support of this initiative.

The passage of Measure R, which Beverly Hills strongly supported, shows that Los Angeles County voters understand the need for transportation improvements throughout the County to reduce congestion, improve air quality, and maintain the economic competitiveness of the region. The Westside Subway Extension is the most important transportation project within the City of Beverly Hills that will meet these goals.

Accelerating the construction of the Westside Subway Extension through the "30/10" will provide transportation relief and an economic boost to our region at this critical time. Thank you for considering our position and please support this critical initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Delshad".

Jimmy Delshad
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Beverly Hills City Council
Jeffrey Kolin, City Manager



Jimmy Delshad, Mayor

October 8, 2010

Honorable Don Knabe
Chair, Metro Board of Directors
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority – Metro
One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-3
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

RE: Support of Westside Subway Extension

Dear Supervisor Knabe:

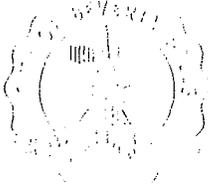
I am sending this letter on behalf of the Beverly Hills City Council. The City is currently reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Westside Subway Extension and will be submitting a comment letter to Metro in regards to the options studied, and on the analysis in the draft report. The City remains very concerned about tunneling under residential properties and especially under the Beverly Hills High School and the forthcoming letter will include comments, among others, on the possible track alignment options between the Wilshire/ Rodeo station and the Century City station. In advance of the comment letter, the City would like to re-iterate its support for the Westside Subway Extension Project, and its strong preference for alignment through the City of Beverly Hills and to Century City along Wilshire Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Delshad".

Jimmy Delshad, Mayor
City of Beverly Hills

Cc: Beverly Hills City Council
Jeff Kolin, City Manager



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

NANCY KRASNE
MAYOR

July 14, 2009

Ara Najarian, Chair
Los Angeles County Metro Board of Directors
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Chair Najarian:

The City of Beverly Hills City Council strongly urges that Metro Board of Directors adopt the 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan with the Westside Subway Extension included as part of the "funded" element of the LRTP. The City of Beverly Hills supported Measure R with the goal of expediting the construction of the Westside Subway Extension. We are pleased to see that Metro staff has recommended that this project be included in the funded element of the LRTP.

The Westside Cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Santa Monica and West Hollywood prepared a Westside Mobility Study in 2003. The study concluded that "improvements to roadways and the existing transit systems will not solve traffic congestion problems on the Westside." All of the Westside Cities subsequently adopted resolutions supporting three long term transportation initiatives: The Westside Subway Extension, Exposition Light Rail Project and I-10/Robertson interchange improvements. Additionally, the City of Beverly Hills appointed an 18-member citizen's Mass Transit Committee in 2006 that unanimously acknowledged the need and benefits of a Westside Subway Extension to serve the City of Beverly Hills.

As shown in studies conducted by Metro, the Westside Subway Extension is a strong performing line that will benefit not only Westside residents but a large population of employees who commute daily to Westside Employment Centers. We strongly endorse Metro staff's recommendation to include the Westside Subway Extension in the funded element of the LRTP.

Thank you for considering our position on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Krasne".

Nancy Krasne
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Beverly Hills City Council
Metro Board Members
Arthur Leahy, Metro CEO