



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 10, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director of Transportation

Subject: Upcoming Activities Related to Metro's Planned Construction of the La Cienega Station

Attachments:

1. July 18, 2013 Metro PowerPoint presented to Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee
2. Examples of Agreements for Rail Construction
3. Letter from Los Angeles County – Office of the County Counsel

INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is preparing for construction of Segment 1 of the Purple Line Extension with a terminus at a station at the La Cienega/Wilshire Boulevard intersection. This report provides an overview of Metro's plans and seeks direction from City Council regarding Metro's request to develop an agreement between the City and Metro that provides the framework for coordination of permit and construction activities related to advanced utility relocation and construction of the La Cienega Station, including reimbursement of City staff costs.

DISCUSSION

The City Council discussed the issuance of permits related to the Metro Purple Line Extension at the August 6, 2013 City Council meeting. The majority of the City Council agreed that all permit requests should be placed on a City Council agenda for City Council consideration. Permit requests considered "minor" would be placed on the consent calendar. Based on City Council discussion, staff has identified the following issues that would be discussed by City Council rather than placed on a consent calendar.

- Time implications of work, including:
 - Time to complete a section of work within standard work hours (10 am to 3 pm) and weekends during the day compared to working during peak traffic hours and/or night time.
 - Single lane vs. multiple lane closures

- Traffic mitigation plans
- Impacts of construction on residents and adjacent businesses, including parking, lighting (if at night), and noise.

Project Status

Metro is proceeding with plans to construct Segment 1 of the Westside Subway Extension from the existing Wilshire/Western station to the planned Wilshire/La Cienega station. Metro's current schedule is to award a "Design/Build" construction contract in January 2014. Before awarding a contract, Metro must obtain a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FFGA is the final step in the federal planning process for major transportation capital projects and involves an agreement that establishes the maximum level of federal financial assistance and provides the terms and conditions for federal participation. Metro is currently seeking a FFGA for only Segment 1 of the Westside Subway Extension. Metro is preparing a bid package for utility relocations with the goal of starting the relocation of the City of Beverly Hills' water and sewer facilities at the La Cienega station in January 2014. Metro's plan is for Southern California Edison (SCE) to submit plans for their utility relocations in August 2013, with the goal of SCE utilities being relocated prior to January 2014. Plans for relocating AT&T utilities and Southern California Gas are anticipated to be received within the next 6-12 months but actual work is not anticipated until later. Plans to relocate a small stretch of fiber optic conduits are anticipated to be submitted in the next 6-12 months as well. With Metro's current plans, major construction would begin at the La Cienega Station in late 2015, at the earliest.

Metro staff is proceeding with public outreach for construction of the La Cienega Station and seeking exemptions for night-time, holiday and weekend construction. Metro held a Station Advisory Group meeting on June 6, 2013, for all Segment 1 stations and provided a presentation to the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee on Thursday, July 18, 2013.

The City generally allows construction on Wilshire Boulevard between 10 am and 3 pm, Monday through Friday and 9 am to 6 pm on Saturday and Sundays. The City has also limited construction between Thanksgiving and New Years Day. Restrictions vary based on the adjacent uses. As presented by Metro at the July 18, 2013 Government Affairs Committee, Metro is requesting exemptions to allow construction activities at night, during the peak-hour parking restriction, and during the 'Holiday Moratorium.'

The typical method for Metro or designated construction authority to coordinate construction within a jurisdiction is to develop an agreement that outlines the terms of issuing permits and coordinating construction activities. Through the agreement, Metro pays the local jurisdiction for staff/resources coordinating the permit process and other work done in relation to the construction process. It also establishes timeframes and liabilities of construction work. An agreement sets a process for the decision making relating to permits; it does not resolve or provide automatic exemptions to the City's standard conditions for construction projects.

Staff anticipates significant City involvement from Transportation Planning/Engineering, Civil Engineering and Inspection services that would require more contractual resources than could be provided by current City staff. A project of this magnitude also requires staff, preferably a project lead, to coordinate input from various City departments,

including Police and Fire. Coordination is also needed for City Council review of plans and alternatives and ensure compliance of mitigation measures.

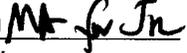
Attached you will find sample agreements between Santa Monica and Pasadena and the respective construction authorities for projects in their City. Developing and negotiating an agreement with a structure that includes the approval process as directed by City Council at the August 6, 2013 meeting, would require dedicating staff and City Attorney's office resources over the next few months.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks direction from City Council.

Jeffrey Kolin 
Approved By