



## Board Report

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**File #:** 2019-0219, **File Type:** Motion / Motion Response

**Agenda Number:** 11.

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**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE  
MAY 15, 2019**

**SUBJECT: RIO HONDO CONFLUENCE STATION FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

RECEIVE AND FILE update on the Rio Hondo Confluence Station Feasibility Study.

**ISSUE**

At the December 2018 meeting, the Board approved Motion 15.1 (Attachment A) to conduct a feasibility study of a potential West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) station at the confluence of the Los Angeles River and the Rio Hondo Channel (Confluence). This report provides an update on the status of the feasibility study.

**BACKGROUND**

The West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) Transit Corridor would travel over the Confluence area (Attachment B). Locating a station at the Confluence could connect light rail transit (LRT) with planned community uses in the area as part of the recently completed Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP), should that vision be implemented. Doing so would also offer WSAB LRT access to each of the planned amenities while supporting potential economic development.

At the December 6, 2018 meeting, the Metro Board of Directors approved Motion 15.1 directing a separate, parallel feasibility study of a WSAB station at the Confluence area. The motion directed staff to:

- Fund a feasibility study and any necessary environmental clearance for a potential station at the confluence site;
- Commence the feasibility study immediately, with a determination of feasibility and whether to advance into environmental review made after the completion of the environmental documentation process for the WSAB Project;
- Participate with proponents seeking to design and implement the confluence area vision, which is set forth in the LLARRP;
- Work collaboratively with state, local and federal partners to secure funding for the capital improvements of the potential confluence site station, should Metro subsequently find the station would provide mobility value after consideration of a future study; and

- Report back to the Board in six months on the progress of the feasibility study.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff is currently finalizing the Statement of Work and the Independent Cost Estimate as part of the Request for Proposals (RFP) package that will be used to solicit qualified firms to conduct the feasibility study. Once finalized, the RFP package will be released this summer, and the contract will be awarded by winter of this year. The feasibility study is anticipated to be completed within 24 months of award date. Below is the anticipated schedule.

Phase	Date
Pre-procurement (Scope of Work, VCM review, DEOD Review etc.)	Spring/Summer 2019
Metro Releases RFP	Summer 2019
Notice of Award	Winter 2019
Prepare Feasibility Study	Winter 2019 - Winter 2021

## **EQUITY**

The Feasibility Study conforms to the recently adopted Metro Equity Platform Framework through assessing the potential new benefits of enhanced mobility and regional access to the historically underinvested populations in the Project Area.

## **DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT**

These actions will not have any impact on the safety of our customers and/or employees because this project is at the study phase and no capital or operational impacts will result from this Board action.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The FY 2018-19 budget contains no funds for the feasibility study. Funds will need to be added to the

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FY 2019-20 budget in Cost Center 4370 (Systemwide Team 3) in order to award the contract.

Impact to Budget

The funding for the feasibility study is in the Measure M Expenditure Plan. As these funds are intended for the feasibility study, they are not eligible for Metro bus and rail capital and operating expenditures.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The feasibility study will assess the need and benefit of a station at the Rio Hondo Confluence area. This directly supports Strategic Plan Goal 1: Provide high quality mobility options that enable people to spend less time traveling. The Study will evaluate the mobility value of a station at this location, consistent with Goal 1.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The Board could decide not to release an RFP package to solicit services for the feasibility study. This alternative is not recommended as it would directly contradict the December Board Motion 15.1. The Board could also decide to delay the release of the RFP package until the completion of the WSAB environmental study. This alternative is not recommended however, as a delay in reaching a finding of feasibility for adding a station at the confluence could have potential impacts to the WSAB project schedule.

**NEXT STEPS**

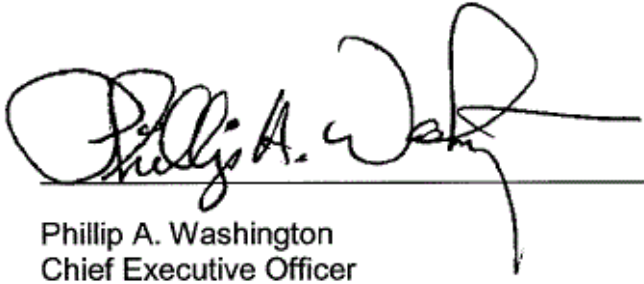
Staff will continue to prepare the RFP package for release in summer. Once the bidding window has closed, staff will review qualified proposals and award the contract in winter.

**ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT A - December 2018 Board Motion #15.1  
ATTACHMENT B - Confluence Area Map

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## Board Report

File #: 2018-0773, File Type: Motion / Motion Response

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### REGULAR BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 6, 2018

#### Motion by:

#### **SOLIS, HAHN, BUTTS, RIDLEY-THOMAS & DUPONT-WALKER**

The Los Angeles River is currently seeing unprecedented levels of investment. The recently completed Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP) established a vision for the revitalization of the 19-mile south end of the river. Today, Los Angeles County is developing a master plan to reimagine all 51 miles of the Los Angeles River corridor and make it a destination for the county. In conjunction with these efforts, the State has dedicated \$100 million in Proposition 1 bond funding and an additional \$20 million through a budget appropriation for improvements to all 51 miles of the river. Much of this funding will be used to implement the LLARRP which proposes a slew of projects including a signature project at the Los Angeles River/Rio Hondo Confluence that would include a cultural center. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District with support of the First Supervisorial District have engaged a consultant team which includes subconsultant Frank Gehry, the renowned architect behind the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Downtown Los Angeles, to develop the Los Angeles River Master Plan and to plan the Confluence project .

The Confluence area and the surrounding cities make up one of the most disadvantaged and transit-dependent communities in the county with extremely low access to parks and high-quality transit. To address this, Los Angeles County voters passed Measures M and A in 2016 to enhance the county's transportation network and to increase access to parks. Measure A, which was passed with 75 percent voter approval, evaluated each community in the county through the Parks Needs Assessment and ranked the southeast cities as "Very High Need" areas.

Despite these challenges, the Confluence has already become a destination for the local community - the City of South Gate and Speaker of the California State Assembly Anthony Rendon have held movie nights and festivals at the nearby Hollydale Regional Park and the adjacent riverbed, drawing between 200 and 2000 people at each event. The cultural center will further entrench the Confluence as a community anchor and will be accompanied by park and open space improvements as proposed in the LLARRP including an amphitheater, bridge parks, and stormwater treatment facilities. Additionally, nearby developments including the \$470 million Rancho Los Amigos South Campus project are helping to spur economic growth.

The West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor passes over the Los Angeles River/Rio Hondo Confluence, which offers a unique opportunity to connect light-rail transit, multi-use trails along the

Los Angeles and Rio Hondo rivers, regional park space, and the cultural arts center all in one location. A new station located along the West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor at the Confluence would offer access to each of these amenities for residents from all over the county while spurring economic development.

A preliminary feasibility study cited station costs ranging from \$60 to \$100 million with associated schedule delays of 12 to 24 months. These costs and schedule delays have not been substantiated in detail and the station warrants further study to identify efficiencies. While there are substantial costs associated with the construction of any light-rail station, the costs for the Confluence Station can be minimized by a variety of factors. For example, as-built plans show that the existing railroad bridges over the Los Angeles and Rio Hondo rivers measure approximately 16 and 17.5 feet wide, respectively. To accommodate new tracks for the West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor, new railroad bridges would likely need to be constructed and can include a simple concrete-pad station platform as part of their designs. Opportunities for joint parking facilities could be explored at the nearby cultural center to eliminate or minimize costs for a dedicated station parking lot. Inclusion of the Confluence station in the project would also eliminate the need for robust first/last mile connections between the cultural center and the Firestone and Gardendale stations which could total tens of millions of dollars. The schedule delays related to US Army Corps approvals for the station platform would be included as part of the approvals for the construction of new bridges. US Army Corps involvement can be further minimized if station work is mostly located on the Rio Hondo due to this portion of the river being under Los Angeles County Flood Control jurisdiction. Eminent domain proceedings or lengthy acquisition periods can be shortened or eliminated entirely by utilizing one of the several pieces of land nearby owned by Los Angeles County or the City of South Gate.

This station would connect some of the county's most park-poor and disadvantaged communities to world-class transportation and recreational facilities and should not be precluded from being studied as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project Definition should be revised to include an optional station located at the Confluence and re-evaluated after the Draft EIS/EIR is prepared to determine the feasibility of the station.

**SUBJECT: WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH TRANSIT CORRIDOR CONFLUENCE STATION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

APPROVE motion by Solis, Hahn, Butts, Ridley-Thomas & Dupont-Walker that:

- A. Metro will fund the feasibility study and any necessary environmental clearance for a potential station at the confluence site;
- B. A feasibility study of a station at the confluence site shall commence immediately, with a determination of feasibility and whether to advance into environmental review made after the completion of the environmental documentation process for the Project;

- C. Metro staff shall participate with proponents seeking to design and implement the confluence area vision, which is set forth in the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan;
  
- D. Metro will work collaboratively with its state, local and federal partners to secure funding for the capital improvements of the potential confluence site station, should Metro subsequently find the station would provide mobility value after consideration of a future study;
  
- E. Metro will report back in 6 months on the progress of the feasibility study.

