SR 710 EIR/EIS TAC Meeting No. 11 – Staff Notes

On Wednesday July 10, 2013, Metro held its 11th SR 710 Technical Advisory Committee meeting at Metro headquarters. Metro's staff and the consultant Technical Team (TT) presented information on the following items:

- 1. Public Outreach Update
- 2. Status Update on Preliminary Engineering
- 3. Update on Environmental Technical Studies
- 4. Next Steps
- **1. Public Outreach Update:** Metro's staff provided a summary of their outreach activities between May and July 2013. They also provided information on *All Communities Convening Information Sessions* planned in July including a meeting in Pasadena at the Blair High School on Saturday July 20, 2013.
- **2. Status Update on Preliminary Engineering:** The update included feedback received from prior meetings, providing fact checks on issues raised previously, and identifying Alternative Design Refinements:

<u>Feedback</u>: This feedback included comments received previously during Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Stakeholder Outreach Advisory Committee (SOAC) meetings. Some of the comments included: rationale for evaluating a single bore tunnel, emergency response time/access to Huntington Memorial Hospital during construction, location of haul destination, and evaluation of traffic impacts in unincorporated areas, such as La Crescenta.

<u>Fact Checks:</u> This agenda item is intended to clarify what are characterized as misstatements of prior studies or misinterpretations of TT statements. The main item discussed was related to the fact that the LRT alternative does provide access to several activity centers including East LA Community College, Cal State LA, Downtown South Pasadena, Huntington Hospital, and downtown Pasadena.

<u>Alternative Design Refinements:</u> The consultant team indicated that the purpose of these refinements were to optimize performance, reduce potential ROW and environmental impacts, reduce construction costs and minimize community impacts. Refinements were provided for the various alternatives as highlighted below:

- <u>TSM/TDM Alternative:</u> Six intersections and one street segment were removed from the list of
 potential future improvements, due to excessive impacts and/or lack of observed congestion
 issues.
- <u>BRT Alternative</u>: Refinements were made to certain segments by allowing the bus to travel in
 mixed traffic rather than exclusive bus lanes, in order to minimize parking impacts. Some of the
 segments included streets in downtown Pasadena. Loss of parking on at least one side of the
 street on Fair Oaks Avenue might still be an impact in Pasadena.

- <u>LRT Alternative</u>: Continuing to refine station configuration and ROW issues, and investigating feasibility of unifying maintenance yard and storage tracks.
- <u>Freeway Tunnel Alternative:</u> Developing Operation and Maintenance Building concepts, landscaping concepts for portal areas, coordinating with Fire Marshal and Fire Responders, providing turn around area for CHP, coordinating the removal of excavated materials by rail to Irwindale, coordinating with power companies, and verifying if access to St John Avenue and Pasadena Ave can be provided to/from the tunnel.
- **3. Update on Environmental Technical Studies:** The consultant team provided information on the Environmental Study Process which included preparing the draft and final technical studies for approval by Caltrans/Metro, presenting key findings to TAC and SOAC, and using the approved technical studies to prepare the Draft EIR/EIS. A number of technical studies will be included in the Draft EIR/EIS, some of these studies highlighted at the meeting included:
 - Community Impact assessment
 - Cultural Resources
 - Visual Impact Assessment
 - Air Quality Analysis and Health Risk Assessment
 - Noise Study Report
 - Section 4(f) Evaluation (protected resources such as parks and recreational areas, publicly owned wildlife refuges, and historic sites listed on National Register of Historic Places)

4. Next Steps

- Evaluate performance of No Build and Build alternatives using 2012 RTP model
- Continue to refine alternatives
- Continue with Technical Studies
- Continue with Preliminary Engineering
- Continue to review recommendations from Value Analysis Study
- The next Metro TAC meeting is scheduled in September or October 2013

These staff notes and a copy of the Metro's PowerPoint Presentation for this TAC meeting are being posted on the City's SR-710 Website at http://cityofpasadena.net/SR710/.

Staff notes prepared by Bahman Janka, Transportation Administrator