

May 26, 2016

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director  
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG Transportation Director

SUBJECT: Crenshaw Northern Extension Rail Transit Study

Adherence to Strategic Plan:

*Goal B: Regional Advocacy.* Advocate for the interests of the South Bay.

Background

Metro is constructing the Crenshaw/LAX Light Rail project between the Green Line and the Exposition Line, the LAX People Mover to connect the Crenshaw LAX line to the LAX terminals, and the Regional Connector that would extend the light rail line from Metro 7<sup>th</sup>/Metro station (where the Metro Blue Line and Exposition Line currently connect to the Red Line Subway) under downtown LA to Union Station. In addition, Metro will soon release the Draft EIR for a southern extension of the Green Line / Crenshaw LAX line to South Torrance.

Metro is highlighting in its Proposed Ballot Measure a \$5 to \$9 billion rail subway project that would initially be built through the Sepulveda Pass under the I-405 freeway between the I-10 and US 101 freeways and later be extended to LAX. It could initially connect the Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley with the Purple Line in Westwood and the Exposition Line and would be extended to LAX in a later phase.

The City of West Hollywood is leading a coalition known as “All on Board” that is proposing a northern extension of the Crenshaw/Torrance light rail line be constructed between the Exposition Line, Cedars Sinai Hospital, through the city of West Hollywood to the Metro Red Line Hollywood / Highland Station. A conceptual route map of the regional context for the Crenshaw North Connector is on page 89 of the Board agenda packet. Initial studies for the Crenshaw North light rail line were authorized using Measure R funds. The coalition believes that their proposed line could provide more effective regional rail connectivity at a far lower cost than the Sepulveda Tunnel rail project.

By completing the Regional Connector, Green Line South extension to Torrance and the Crenshaw northern light rail extension, South Bay rail transit patrons would be able to travel from South Torrance, Redondo Beach, Lawndale and El Segundo with no transfer or one transfer to new destinations, including: L. A. Union Station, Westwood/UCLA, Century City, Beverly Hills, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, the Miracle Mile, West Hollywood, Hollywood, Universal City and the San Fernando Valley.

West Hollywood staff reports that, in addition to the city, the potential Crenshaw North project is supported by Congressional Representatives Karen Bass and Adam Schiff, California Senator Ben Allen, California Assemblyman Richard Bloom, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, American Cancer Society, and the Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce.

Recommendation

The SBCCOG Board supports continued study of the Crenshaw Northern Extension as a potentially worthy project for inclusion in the Metro Long Range Plan as a third segment in the Torrance to Hollywood light rail corridor once construction of the Crenshaw/LAX line (segment 1) and Green Line South Extension to Torrance (segment 2) are completed.