

Eco-Rapid Transit, formerly known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit system that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The system is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of this region utilizing safe, advanced transit technology to expand economic growth that maximizes ridership in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

- City of Artesia
- City of Bell
- City of Bell Gardens
- City of Cudahy
- City of Downey
- City of Glendale
- City of Huntington Park
- City of Maywood
- City of Paramount
- City of South Gate
- Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority

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William Rawlings  
City Manager Representative

## AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors  
FROM: Michael Kodama, Executive Director  
DATE: April 14, 2021  
SUBJECT: **UPDATE AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH PROJECT**

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker

### ISSUE

Eco-Rapid Transit staff will provide an update regarding the West Santa Ana Branch and seeks input from the Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors.

### BACKGROUND

Eco-Rapid Transit continues to work on issues related to the West Santa Ana Branch:

- Met with Metro Chief Executive Officer Phil Washington and his staff to talk about the West Santa Ana Branch and have been invited back to a second meeting.
- At the request of Metro, Eco-Rapid Transit provided a letter of support as we work together with Metro seeking the necessary federal funding for the WSAB light rail transit project (see attached).
- Eco-Rapid Transit expects to learn more regarding project costs and necessary financial planning for the project.
- Latest information suggests that Eco-Rapid Transit needs to be prepared to review the draft environmental impact statement/environmental impact report. Eco-Rapid Transit staff is working with Gateway Cities Council of Governments (who is working with Metro) regarding additional Third Party Administration funds necessary to fund expected staff coordination and review.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Discuss information presented and offer action items; and/or
2. Receive and file the item



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April 2, 2021

Phillip A. Washington  
Chief Executive Officer  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
1 Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Eco-Rapid Transit Support for the West Santa Ana Branch Project

Dear Mr. Washington:

Eco-Rapid Transit supports the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) efforts to pursue federal funding for the West Santa Ana Branch Rail Transit Project.

The West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor (WSAB) Project is a 19-mile corridor light rail transit project that is currently undergoing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process. The project area is home to 1.2 million residents and is a job center to approximately 584,000 employees. Projections show the resident population increasing to 1.5 million and jobs increasing to 670,000 by 2040. Population and employment densities are five times higher than the LA County average. This is important to address the equity, social, environmental justice, air quality, safety and mobility issues that negatively impact many of our residents and businesses in the WSAB corridor. This rail corridor is anticipated to serve commuters in a high travel demand corridor by providing relief to the limited transportation system currently available to these communities. In addition, the project is expected to provide a direct connection to Metro's Green and Blue lines.

Eco-Rapid Transit is a joint powers authority (JPA) consisting of 11 members. This includes nine cities located along the West Santa Ana Branch. We have been an active participant and a proponent of this project since our inception in 2002. This project is a high priority for our JPA and our member cities and we look forward to riding this line from Artesia to Downtown Los Angeles.

On behalf of Eco-Rapid Transit, you have our support as, together, we pursue federal funding for this critically needed project. We encourage and support Metro's continued development of this project and the efforts to find additional funding to bring the WSAB project to completion. Thank you very much for your leadership and commitment to the West Santa Ana Branch Project.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Kodama  
Executive Director

Cc: Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors\