

# Memorandum

Tab 38

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 18-19, 2016

Reference No.: 2.2c (4)  
Action

From: SUSAN BRANSEN  
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE METRO BLUE LINE TRACK  
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-16-28)**

## **ISSUE:**

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Metro Blue Line Track Improvements Project (Project) in Los Angeles County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Commission accept the MND and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project involves the installation of four new sets of track crossovers, including the Overhead Catenary System (OCS), two new track sidings including OCS, an equipment bungalow, installation of pedestrian gates and emergency swing gates at 27 intersections, and the replacement of the existing train control system.

On April 15, 2015, the LACMTA adopted the final MND for the project and found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. An Addendum was filed in June 2015 to accommodate the installation of five small fee takes for pedestrian gates; however, the modifications did not result in a design change or alter the construction footprint that was contained in the original MND.

On April 12, 2016, LACMTA confirmed that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project scope of work and programming by the Commission.

The project is estimated to cost \$64,000,000 and is fully funded through construction with Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Funds (\$38,500,000) and Proposition A Funds (\$25,500,000). Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2016/17.

Attachments

- Resolution E-16-28
- Project Location

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 07 – Los Angeles County Resolution E-16-28

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
  - Metro Blue Line Track Improvements Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the LACMTA has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project involves the installation of four new sets of track crossovers, including the Overhead Catenary System (OCS), two new track sidings including OCS, an equipment bungalow, installation of pedestrian gates and emergency swing gates at 27 intersections, and the replacement of the existing train control system; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the project commences on 7<sup>th</sup> Street/Metro Center, and runs south on Flower Street, sharing tracks with the Expo Line to Culver City; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the LACMTA found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation; and
- 1.7 **WHEREAS**, the LACMTA approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approves the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.