

Wilshire Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit Project

SCOPING MEETING

October 2009



Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- Provide an overview of the proposed project
- Discuss the new environmental process
- Summarize the project alternatives
- Present the updated study schedule
- **Listen to your comments so they can be considered in developing the Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Introduction



- **Wilshire Boulevard**
 - Key east/west travel corridor
 - One of the most important transit corridors in Los Angeles County
 - Approximately 93,000 weekday bus boardings
 - Average bus speeds have declined steadily over the past 20 years
- **Project area includes most of Wilshire Boulevard**
 - From just west of downtown Los Angeles to the Santa Monica City line
 - Excludes the City of Beverly Hills
- **Metro has commenced work on an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA)**

Participating Agencies

- **Planning and Design**
 - City of Los Angeles
 - County of Los Angeles
 - Metro
- **Construction**
 - City of Los Angeles
 - Los Angeles County
- **Funding**
 - Federal Transit Administration
 - Metro
 - City of Los Angeles

Study Background



- **June 2008**
 - Metro, City of Los Angeles, and County of Los Angeles began studying the feasibility of peak period curbside bus lanes on Wilshire Boulevard
 - Metro & City of Los Angeles began Initial Study/ Environmental Assessment (IS/EA)
- **November 2008**
 - Four community meetings were conducted along the Wilshire corridor to present the proposed project and receive public comment

Study Background (Continued)

- May 2009
 - Decision to elevate IS/EA to an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA)
 - Decision based on:
 - Public input
 - Technical analyses
- July 2009
 - Federal Transit Administration (FTA) determined that an EA is still appropriate to satisfy NEPA requirements

Proposed Project Overview



- **Bus lanes would:**
 - Operate only during weekday peak periods (7-9 AM & 4-7 PM)
 - In both directions
 - In the curb lane
- **Infrastructure improvements include:**
 - Curb lane repaving/reconstructing
 - Selective street widenings
 - Improved traffic signal timing
 - Improved bus signal priority

Environmental Process

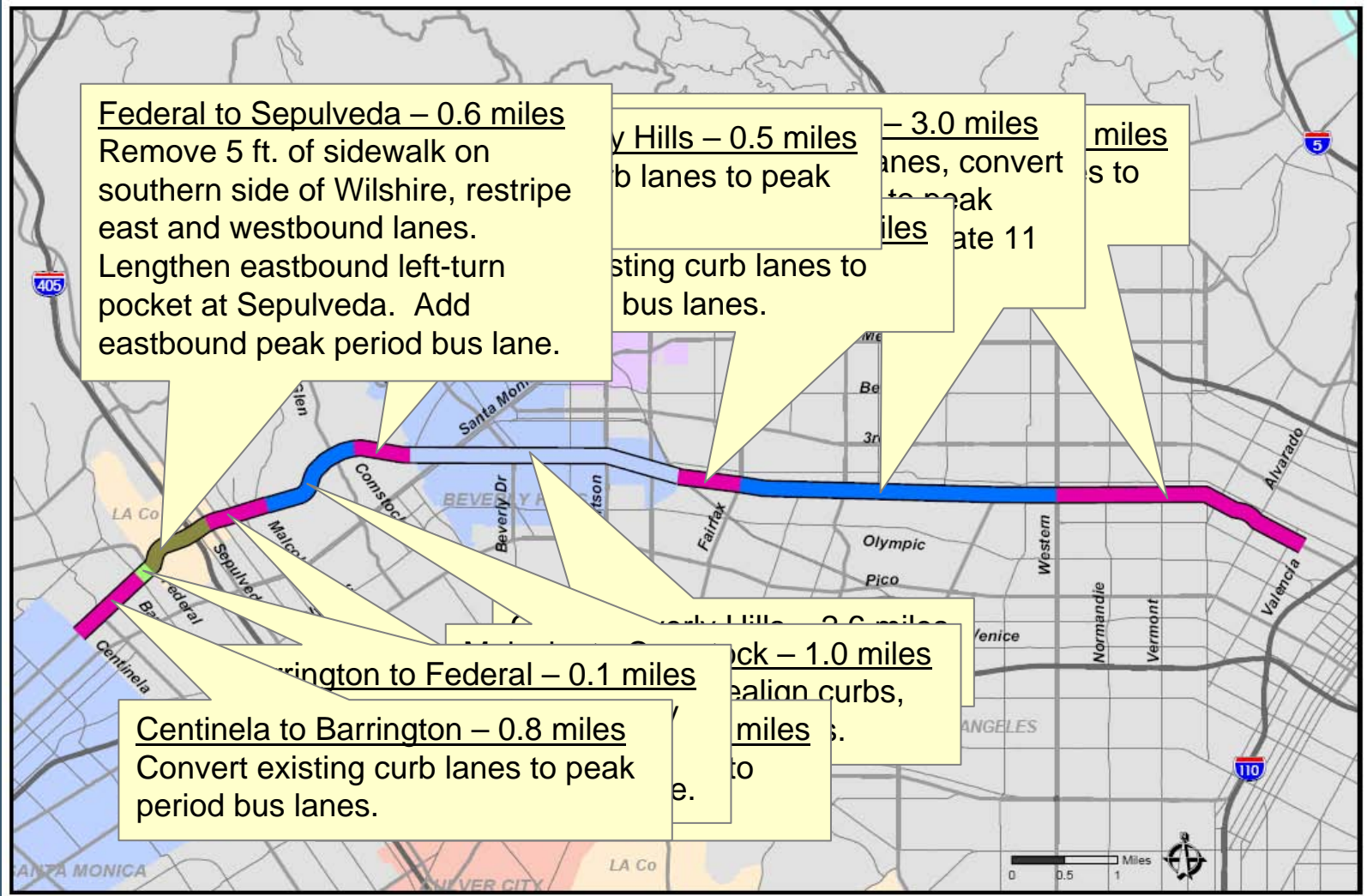


- Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment:
 - Examine Wilshire BRT feasibility
 - Evaluate the environmental, social, and economic issues associated with the proposed project
 - Satisfies both state and federal requirements
- The EIR/EA will evaluate potential impacts related, but not limited to, the following:
 - Traffic & Parking
 - Air Quality
 - Noise
 - Cultural Resources (Architectural, Archaeological, Paleontological)
 - Environmental Justice/Community Impacts
 - Historic Resources/Parklands
- The EIR/EA will also evaluate project alternatives



Metro

Proposed Project Scope



Traffic Study



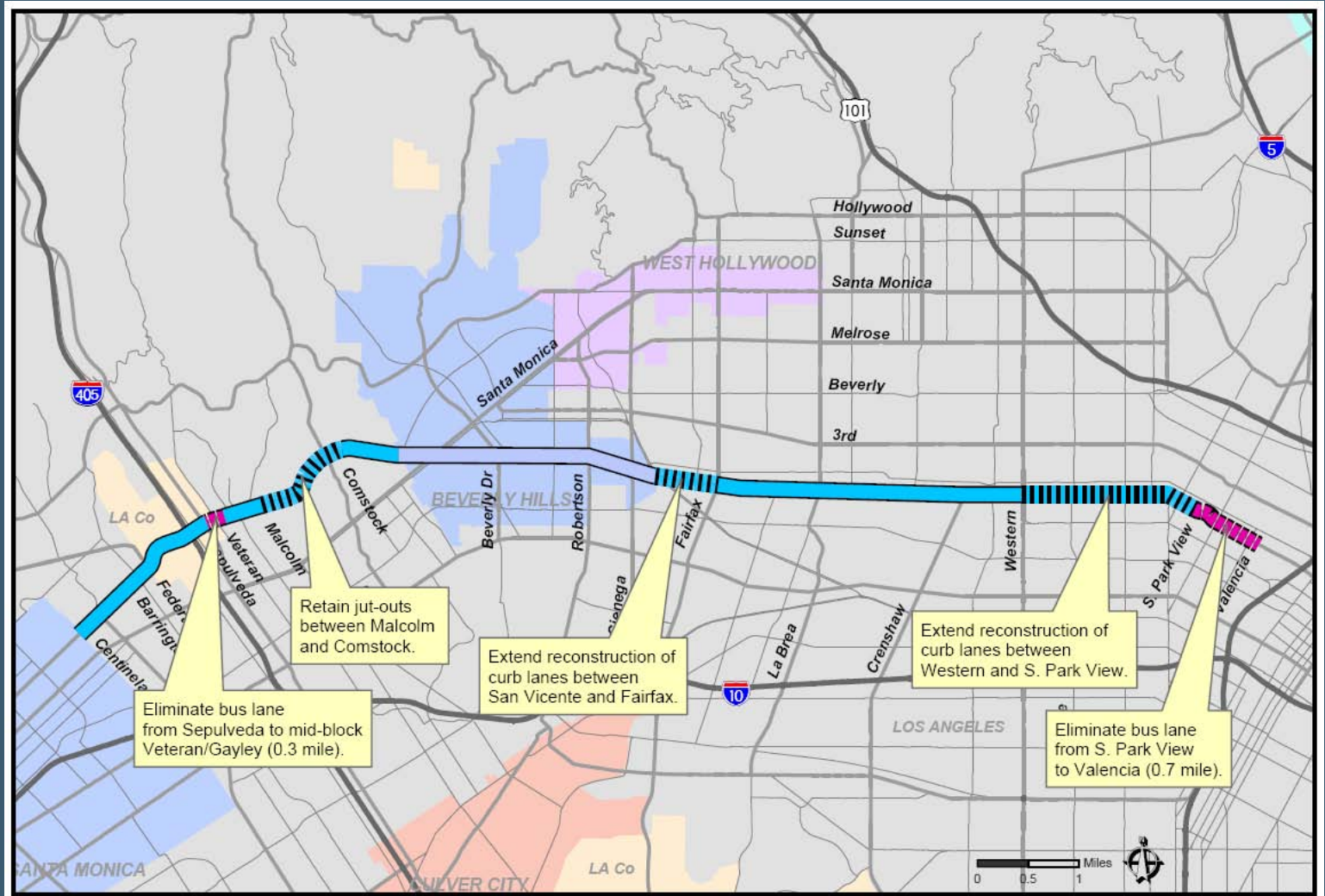
- Study intersections:
 - 17 on Wilshire Boulevard
 - 57 on parallel corridors
- For all 74 study intersections:
 - Traffic counts are being collected
 - Future traffic forecasts will be developed
 - Potential impacts on congestion will be identified
- Potential parking impacts will be evaluated

Project Alternatives



- No Build Alternative
- Proposed Project with the following modifications:
 - Eliminate the bus lane from S. Park View to Valencia (0.7 miles)
 - Eliminate the bus lane from Sepulveda to mid-block Veteran/Gayley (0.3 miles)
 - Between Malcolm and Comstock:
 - Retain all existing “jut-outs”
 - Convert existing curbside traffic lanes to weekday peak period bus lanes
 - Extend Wilshire Boulevard street reconstruction from between Fairfax and Western (2.8 miles) to between San Vicente and S. Park View (5.1 miles)

Project Alternative



Other Alternatives Considered



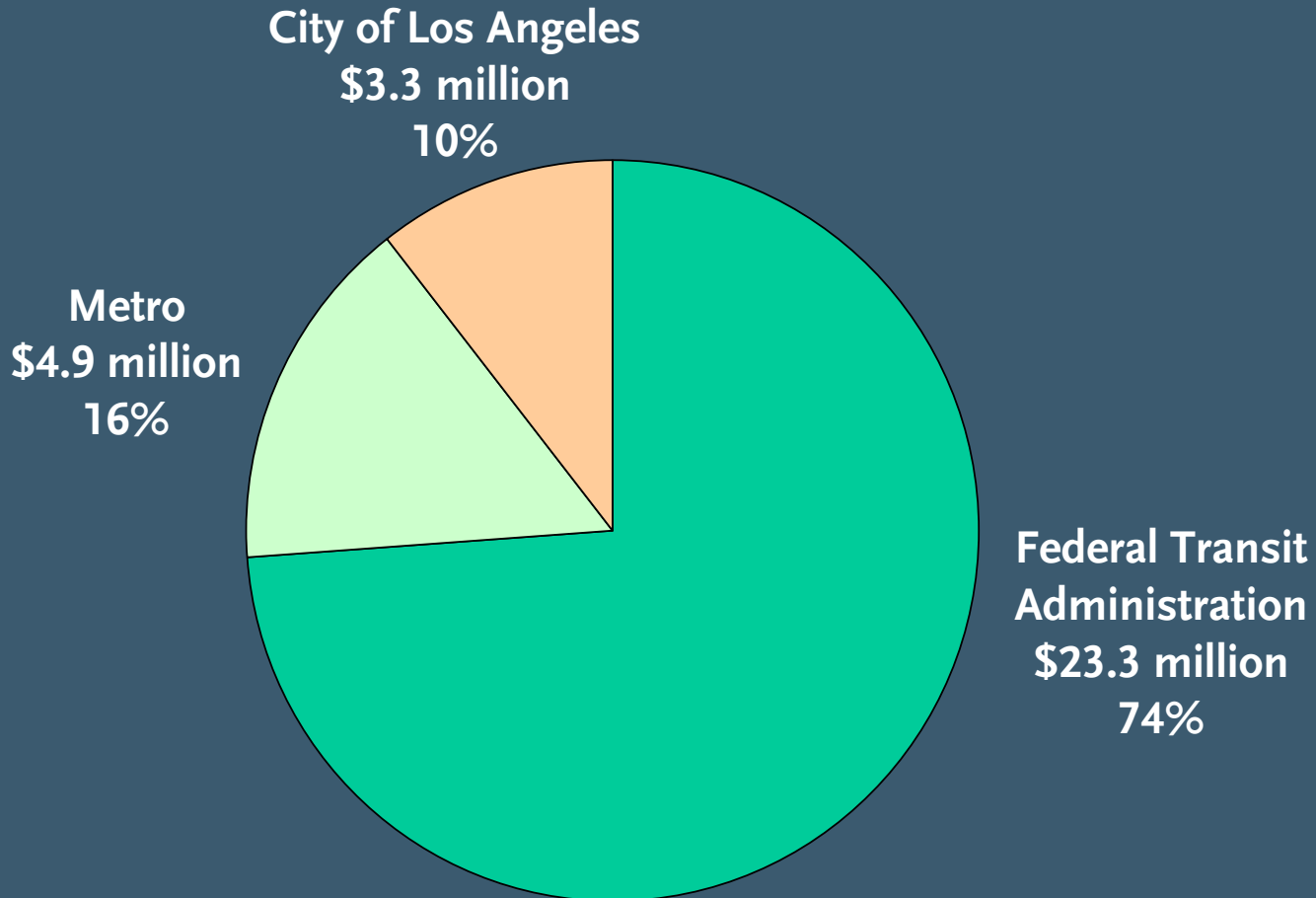
- Proposed Project with the following modifications:
 - Eliminate the bus lane from S. Park View to Valencia (0.7 miles)
 - Eliminate the bus lane from Sepulveda to mid-block Veteran/Gayley (0.3 miles)
 - Not eligible for federal funding
- Mini Bus Lanes
 - Construct approximately 2.5 miles of mini bus lanes in selected segments of Wilshire Boulevard
 - Street improvements and engineering enhancements
 - Not eligible for federal funding

Project Goals



- Improve bus passenger travel times
- Improve bus service reliability
- Improve traffic flow along Wilshire Boulevard
- Reconstruct the curb lanes along damaged portions of Wilshire Boulevard
- Encourage shift from automobile use to public transit
- Improve air quality
- Minimize impacts to existing parking

Project Funding



TOTAL PROJECT = \$31.5 million

Study Schedule



	2009			2010						
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Scoping/Community Meetings	■				■					
Draft Technical Studies		■	■	■						
Draft EIR/EA for Public Review				■	■					
Seek FTA Approval							■			
Metro Board Consideration								■		
Seek LA City/County Approval									■	
Begin Design & Construction										■



Upcoming Meetings

Monday, October 5

Felicia Mahood Center
11338 Santa Monica Boulevard

Wednesday, October 7

Wilshire United Methodist Church
4350 Wilshire Boulevard

Thursday, October 8

Westwood Presbyterian Church
10822 Wilshire Boulevard

Tuesday, October 13

Good Samaritan Hospital – Moseley-Salvatori Conference Room
637 Lucas Avenue

All Meetings:
6:00-8:00 PM

Contact Us



- Internet: metro.net/wilshire
 - Presentation & Other Information
 - Submit Comments
- Phone: (213) 922-2500
- Mail: LACMTA
One Gateway Plaza
Mail Stop: 99-23-1
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Attn: Martha Butler
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- Please submit comments by October 23, 2009

Questions & Comments

