

## **Appendix F**

### **Participating Agency Invitations**



# Metro

Federal Agency Name  
Address

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the  
Westside Extension Project

Dear (name):

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Westside Extension Project. The Westside Extension Project proposes to extend the Metro Rail heavy rail technology from the terminus of the Metro Purple Line at the Wilshire/Western station and a combined alternative that would also extend the Metro Red Line at the Hollywood/Highland station toward the Westside of Los Angeles within a study corridor that extends as far west as downtown Santa Monica.

The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to address the mobility needs of residents, workers, and visitors traveling to, from, and within the highly congested Westside Extension Transit Corridor by providing faster and more reliable high-capacity public transportation than existing services which operate in mixed-flow traffic. The overall goal of the project is to improve mobility in the Westside Extension Transit Corridor by extending the benefits of the existing Metro Purple/ Metro Red Line rail and bus services beyond their current termini near Western Avenue and/or Highland Avenue in Los Angeles to Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica. This subway improvement is needed to bring about a significant increase in east-west capacity and improvement in person-mobility by reducing transit travel time, and, on a county-wide level, strengthening regional access by connecting Metro bus, Metro rail, and Metrolink networks to a high-capacity transit serving the Study Area. The enclosed scoping information packet provides more details including information about the recently completed Alternative Analysis Study and a preliminary schedule of key project events.

Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users establishes an enhanced environmental review process for certain FTA projects, increasing the transparency of the process, as well as opportunities for participation. The requirements of Section 6002 apply to the project that is the subject of this letter.

As part of the environmental review process for this project, the lead agencies must identify, as early as practicable, any other Federal and non-Federal agencies that may have an interest in the project, and invite such agencies to become participating agencies in the environmental review process<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Designation as a "participation agency" does not imply that the participating agency supports the proposed project or has any jurisdiction over, or special expertise concerning the proposed project or its potential impacts. A "participating agency" differs from a "cooperating agency," which is defined in regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act as "any Federal agency other than a lead agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." [40 C.F.R. § 1508.5](#).

Your agency has been identified preliminarily as one that may have an interest in this project, because of the sensitive adjacent land uses and facilities located in many parts of this corridor; accordingly, you are being extended this invitation to become actively involved as a participating agency in the environmental review process for the project.

As a participating agency, you will be afforded the opportunity, together with the public, to be involved in defining the purpose of and need for the project, as well as in determining the range of alternatives to be considered for the project. In addition, you will be asked to:

- Provide input on the impact assessment methodologies and level of detail in your agency's area of expertise;
- Participate in coordination meetings, conference calls, and joint field reviews, as appropriate; and
- Review and comment on sections of the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Your agency does not have to accept this invitation. If, however, you elect not to become a participating agency, you must decline this invitation in writing, indicating that your agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, no expertise or information relevant to the project, and does not intend to submit comments on the project. The declination may be transmitted electronically to Mr. Ray Tellis of the FTA Los Angeles Metropolitan Office at [ray.tellis@dot.gov](mailto:ray.tellis@dot.gov); please include the title of the official responding. In order to give your agency adequate opportunity to weigh the relevance of your participation in this environmental review process, written response to this invitation are not due until after the interagency scoping meeting. The interagency scoping meeting will be held on the following date and location:

- April 13, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the LACMTA, in the Windsor Conference Room, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

You or your delegate is invited to represent your agency at this meeting. Your agency will be treated as participating agency unless your written response declining such designation as outlined above is transmitted not later than May 7, 2009.

Scoping materials will be available on the project website at [www.metro.net/westside](http://www.metro.net/westside). The Notice of Intent will also be published on the project website once it is published in the Federal Register. Additional information will be forthcoming during the scoping process. If you have any questions regarding this invitation, please contact Mr. David Mieger, AICP, Project Director and Deputy Executive Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012, email address, [miegerd@metro.net](mailto:miegerd@metro.net)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Snoble". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" being more prominent than the last name "Snoble".

Roger Snoble  
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure:  
Scoping Information Packet/Schedule



**Metro**

Non-Federal Agency Name  
Address

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the  
Westside Extension Project

Dear (name):

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The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to address the mobility needs of residents, workers, and visitors traveling to, from, and within the highly congested Westside Extension Transit Corridor by providing faster and more reliable high-capacity public transportation than existing services which operate in mixed-flow traffic. The overall goal of the project is to improve mobility in the Westside Extension Transit Corridor by extending the benefits of the existing Metro Purple/ Metro Red Line rail and bus services beyond their current termini near Western Avenue and/or Highland Avenue in Los Angeles to as far as Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica. This subway improvement is needed to bring about a significant increase in east-west capacity and improvement in person-mobility by reducing transit travel time, and, on a county-wide level, strengthening regional access by connecting Metro bus, Metro rail, and Metrolink networks to a high-capacity transit serving the Study Area. The enclosed scoping information packet provides more details including information about the recently completed Alternative Analysis Study and a preliminary schedule of key project events.

Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users establishes an enhanced environmental review process for certain FTA projects, increasing the transparency of the process, as well as opportunities for participation. The requirements of Section 6002 apply to the project that is the subject of this letter.

As part of the environmental review process for this project, the lead agencies must identify, as early as practicable, any other Federal and non-Federal agencies that may have an interest in the project, and invite such agencies to become participating agencies in the environmental review process.<sup>1</sup>

Your agency has been identified preliminarily as one that may have an interest in this project, because of the sensitive adjacent land uses, and facilities located in many parts of this corridor; accordingly, you are being extended this invitation to become actively involved as a participating agency in the environmental review process for the project.

As a participating agency, you will be afforded the opportunity, together with the public, to be involved in defining the purpose of and need for the project, as well as in determining the range of alternatives to be considered for the project. In addition, you will be asked to:

- Provide input on the impact assessment methodologies and level of detail in your agency's area of expertise;
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- Review and comment on sections of the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

If you elect to become a participating agency, you must accept this invitation in writing. The acceptance may be transmitted electronically to Mr. Ray Tellis of the FTA Los Angeles Metropolitan Office at [ray.tellis@dot.gov](mailto:ray.tellis@dot.gov); please include the title of the official responding. In order to give your agency adequate opportunity to weigh the relevance of your participation in this environmental review process, written responses to this invitation are not due until after the interagency scoping meeting. The interagency scoping meeting will be held on the following date and location:

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You or your delegate is invited to represent your agency at this meeting. Written responses accepting designation as participating agencies should be transmitted not later than May 7, 2009.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Snoble".

Roger Snoble  
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure:  
Scoping Information Packet/Schedule