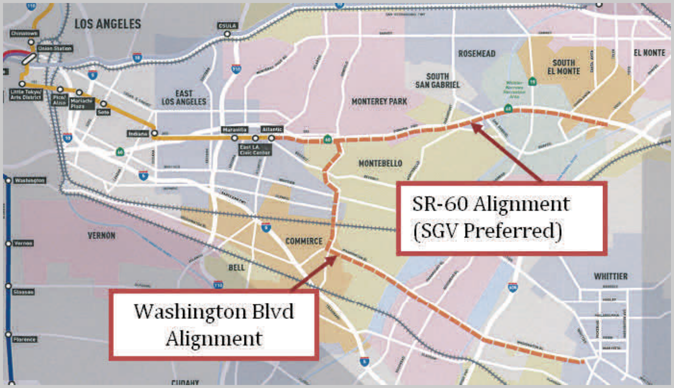
TRANSPORTATION SPOTLIGHT

April 2013

Gold Line Eastside Extension Phase 2

One of the long-standing priorities for the COG has been to ensure that the region is receiving its fair-share of money for transportation projects. In January 2013, the Governing Board approved a Transportation Priority List that identified the COG's project priorities. Each month in the newsletter, we will be highlighting one of these projects, providing more details about the project and its status. This month's project is the Gold Line Eastside Extension—Phase 2.

The Gold Line Eastside Extension currently extends from Union Station in downtown Los Angeles to Atlantic Boulevard in East Los Angeles. The proposed East Side Transit Corridor Phase 2 proposes extending the line – via a double track light rail line – from Atlantic Boulevard to cities further east. Metro is currently studying two alignments: 1) adjacent to State Route 60 and ending in the City of South El Monte; and 2) along Washington Boulevard to the City of Whittier. When the project is completed, projected ridership along the line – on either alignment – is estimated to be between 18,300 and 20,800 average weekday daily boardings. The projected cost is between $1.2 and $1.7 billion, depending on which alignment is selected. The COG supports the SR-60 alignment.



This project is included in the funded portion of Metro's 2009 Final Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which identifies thirty-year projects that best serve the county's needs and expectations. Measure R provides $1.27 billion beginning between Fiscal Years 2022 and 2024 for operation by 2035, as indicated in the LRTP. Metro continues to look at strategies for accelerating the project timeline.

The administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was reviewed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and 3 cooperating agencies — Caltrans, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Metro is currently in the process of addressing the comments provided by these agencies. It is anticipated that the Draft EIR/S will be released for public review in the fall of 2013 with Metro Board action and adoption of a Locally Preferred Alternative occurring in January 2014.

Please stay tuned next month for a spotlight on the ACE project.