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ROSENDAHL PUSHES FOR CONNECTION OF EXPO AND GREEN LINES

Councilman Calls for Study to Link Westside Rail Lines

LOS ANGELES - The City Council voted unanimously to approve City Councilman Bill Rosendahl's motion to study the future connection of the Expo and Green light rail lines.

With Phase I of the Expo Line underway, Rosendahl's motion is a proactive step toward linking the two Westside rail systems.

The Exposition Light Rail Line (Expo), Phase I, has been approved to connect downtown Los Angeles with Culver City, via the Exposition Boulevard corridor. This 9.6 mile line is fully funded and is under construction by the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority.

Currently, the Construction Authority is preparing to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to prepare an EIR/EIS for the Phase II extension of the Expo line between Culver City and Santa Monica. The RFP does not include any analysis of the future connection of the rail lines.

"Long-range planning is necessary if we are to provide a much-needed rail network for the Westside," Rosendahl said. "The connection of the Green Line and Expo Line would serve as a cornerstone for mass transit on the Westside and would help to relieve traffic congestion around LAX."

Rosendahl's motion calls for the Expo Metro Line Construction Authority to amend the current draft RFP for the EIR/EIS to include a specific work task to analyze the feasibility of connecting the Expo Line and proposed LAX/Lincoln Green Line extension. The motion also allocates \$250,000 for the study from coastal transportation funds.

"This connection would provide direct rail access to LAX from Santa Monica and West Los Angeles," Rosendahl said. "It has been the dream of many Westside residents to have

north-south lines that connect the Westside to LAX. With this study, we can begin to see that dream turn into reality.”

The motion’s approval comes just a week after the official groundbreaking of the Exposition Light Rail Line.

In 1994, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority approved an EIR/EIS to construct a Metro Green Line extension to LAX and beyond to Marina Del Rey. This Green Line extension was expected to eventually continue north on Lincoln Boulevard to Santa Monica. Due to subsequent funding constraints, the extension was never constructed.

Currently, Los Angeles Department of Airports (LAWA) is developing an updated LAX Specific Plan that includes an analysis of extending the Green Line to LAX.

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