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March 24, 2023

Georgian Sheridan, Project Manager
 LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
 One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-3
 Los Angeles, CA 90012



RE: Metro C Line (Green) Extension to Torrance
 Project - Draft Environmental Impact Report
 (DEIR)
 SCH# 2021010269
 GTS# 07-LA-2021-04159
 Vic. LA-405 PM 18.20 to 17.60
 LA-107 PM 04.80 to 03.79
 LA-107 PM 3.715

Dear Georgian Sheridan:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. Metro proposes to implement a light rail transit Project that would extend the C Line (Green) from the existing Redondo Beach (Marine) Station to the Torrance Transit Center. The Draft EIR evaluates:

- a) The Proposed Project, which would be an elevated/at-grade alignment within the existing Metro-owned right-of-way (ROW) for the entire 4.5-mile length,
- b) A Trench Option, which travels along the Metro ROW with the light rail located within a below grade trench, and
- c) The Hawthorne Option, with the light rail in an elevated configuration traveling parallel to the I-405 Freeway and within the median of Hawthorne Boulevard.

The nearest State facilities to the proposed project are SR 107 and I-405. After reviewing the DEIR, Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans supports the Project as it provides a valuable extension to regional transit network, creating invaluable opportunities and choices for people to reach their destinations in the mode that best meets their needs. Projects of this nature, that create high quality transportation alternatives for local and inter-regional trips, can help California meet its State-level policy goals

to reduce the number of trips made by driving, improve air quality, and encourage alternative modes of travel. Caltrans' Strategic Management Plan has set targets to improve trips made by bicycle, walking, and public transit, as well as achieving a reduction in statewide, per capita, vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Similar goals are embedded in the California Transportation Plan 2050 and Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. Statewide legislation such as AB 32 and SB 375, as well as Executive Order S-3-05 and N-19-19, echo the need to pursue more sustainable development. Projects, like the one proposed, can help California meet these goals.

As stated in Table 2.6-1 on Page 2-58 of the DEIR, encroachment permit approvals will be required for any work on Caltrans ROW. This could include segments of I-405, SR 107, or bridges that cross State facilities depending on the final chosen alignment.

- The **Proposed Project** and the **Trench Option** will both require coordination, approvals, and permits for any segments that cross Caltrans ROW.
- The **Hawthorne Option** runs directly within or along State right-of-way. Due to the extensive length and scope of work within State ROW for this option, the project will require extensive collaboration with Caltrans staff for various permits and design approvals. These reviews, approvals, and encroachment permits will be conducted at the time of permit application so that all concerns can be adequately addressed.

Regardless of which option will be defined as the Proposed Project, all current design standards and access management concerns must be addressed and Metro would be fully responsible for all mitigation. Caltrans is not responsible for any fair-share contribution to the improvements.

Finally, Caltrans concurs that the Proposed Project alignment would meet the Project's stated objectives by reducing VMT and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, while providing a critical link in the high-capacity regional transit system. If all appropriate permits and approvals are obtained through the Office of Permits, Caltrans does not anticipate any transportation safety impacts to State facilities as a result of the Proposed Project alignment.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2021-04159.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse