



Connecting its cities via environmentally effective rapid transit

Eco-Rapid Transit, formally known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA). Its Board of Directors consists of the following public entities and primary representatives:

County of Los Angeles
Hon. Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Forth District

City of Artesia
Hon. Ali Sajjad Taj
Chair of the Board

City of Bell

City of Bell Gardens

City of Cerritos
Hon. Bruce Borrows

City of Cudahy
Hon. Jose R. Gonzalez
Vice Chair of the Board

City of Glendale

City of Huntington Park
Hon. Karina Macias
Secretary of the Board

City of Maywood
Ms. Angelina Martinez

City of Paramount
Hon. Isabel Aguayo
Treasurer of the Board

City of South Gate
Hon. Maria Davila

**Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena
Airport Authority**
Hon. Frank Quintero

Executive Director
Eric C. Shen, P.E., PTP, CPE

General Counsel
Matthew T. Summers

Ex-Officio

Internal Auditor

ECO-RAPID TRANSIT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGULAR MEETING

September 13, 2023, Wednesday
6:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

2nd Floor Conference Room, Clearwater Building
[16401 Paramount Boulevard](#)
[Paramount, California 90723](#)

A G E N D A

Agenda reports and other written documents are available on the eco-rapid transit website at www.eco-rapid.org.

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Public Comments

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. The items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member or the General Public so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2023

B. Treasurer's Report for the months of July and August 2023, and Warrant Registers dated August 9, 2023, and September 13, 2023

ACTION ITEMS

6. Update on the Creation of the WSAB Corridor Cities Committee by the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG)
Recommended Actions: Receive and File

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7. Update on the WSAB Project Renaming Community Outreach Activities by Los Angeles Metro

Recommended Actions: Receive and File.

8. Authorization to Transfer Two Outside Funded Items from the Authority to GCCOG

Recommended Actions: Authorize Executive Director to work with Los Angeles Metro and Caltrans to transfer grant-funded project/program to GCCOG.

9. Update on the Authority's Restructuring Progress

Recommended Actions: Authorize Executive Director and General Counsel's Office to take steps to terminate Eco-Rapid Transit subject to final Board approval.

INFORMATION ITEM

10. Executive Director Verbal Report

11. Chair's Comments

12. Announcements/Board of Directors Comments

ADJOURNMENT

ERT BOD 20230913 AGENDA VF

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
ECO-RAPID TRANSIT/ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
July 12, 2023
In-Person Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Taj called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM Pacific Daylight Time. A quorum (7 voting members out of 12 filled seats) was reached; thus, action items were taken by the Board.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Quintero (Airport Authority) led the assembly in the flag salute.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES

Voting Board of Directors were present (listed by agency and position on the Board):

1. City of Artesia – Hon. Ali Sajjad Taj, Chair
2. City of Cerritos – Hon. Bruce Barrows, Director
3. City of Cudahy – Hon. Jose R. Gonzalez, Vice Chair (Remote)
4. City of Huntington Park – Hon. Karina Macias, Director
5. City of Maywood - Ms. Angelina Martinez, Director
6. City of Paramount – Hon. Isabel Aguayo, Treasurer (Remote)
7. City of South Gate – Hon. Maria Davila, Director
8. Airport Authority – Hon. Frank Quintero, Director
9. County of Los Angeles Supervisor Hahn’s Office – Luke Klipp, Director

Eco-Rapid Transit Staff:

10. Eric Shen, Executive Director
11. Thais Alves, Assistant General Counsel
12. Kathryn Morrison, Administrative Services Manager
13. Tianyi Wei, Graduate Student Intern

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No written public comments were received prior to the meeting. No additional public comments were received during the meeting.

ITEM 5 – CONSENT CALENDAR

No written public comments were received prior to the meeting. No additional public comments were received during the meeting.

- a) **Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2023**
- b) **Re-approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2023 with correction on Item 8**

c) Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2023, and Warrant Register dated July 12, 2023

MOTION: Director Klipp (Los Angeles County) moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Quintero (Airport Authority) seconded the motion. The Item was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 6 – ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Recommended Actions: Conduct an election for Board officers and approve the regular meeting schedule through December 2023

No written public comments were received prior to the meeting. No additional public comments were received during the meeting.

Executive Director Shen reminded the Board that the Board has the authority to elect new officers or maintain current officers through the Authority's restructuring until December 31, 2023. Per the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, the Board of Directors to serve for one year and continue until office is held by their successors. The meeting was opened to discussion by the Board.

Director Aguayo (Paramount) remarked on her preference to retain the current Board of Directors through December 31, 2023.

Director Gonzalez (Cudahy) agreed with Director Aguayo's remarks.

Assistant General Counsel Alves advised the Board that no Action Items should be discussed by the Board under the Brown Act and AB2449 due to lack of in-person quorum and Board Members joining through teleconference.

A quorum was reached upon the arrival of Director Barrows (Cerritos); thus, the Item was further discussed.

MOTION: Board Director Macias (Huntington Park) moved to approve the Item. Vice Chair Gonzalez seconded the motion. The item was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Executive Director Shen reminded the Board that the secretary position is vacant and inquired the Board if the interim position should be filled.

Chair Taj recommended the secretary position for Director Macias (Huntington Park). No objection by the Board.

ITEM 7 – PROPOSED FY2023/24 REVISED OPERATING BUDGET AND RELATED CONSIDERATIONS

Recommended Actions: Review the proposed revised FY2023/24 Operating Budget, adopt Resolution 2023-05, and direct staff to implement necessary steps and prepare for restructuring.

No written public comments were received prior to the meeting. No additional public comments were received during the meeting.

Executive Director Shen provided the Board with the proposed budget and proportional share needed to carry out critical tasks through December 31, 2023. The projected balance through July 31, 2023 was negative \$13,4432.30 based on incurred costs and costs to be paid. The proposed estimated operated budget for FY2023/24 for Q1 and Q2 is \$130,130.00, accounting for contracted staff, the carry out of past audits, and additional administrative tasks such as record keeping and grant funding. The largest cost burden for the fiscal year is the carry out of past audits for legal compliance. Total needs to be \$160,000 including a 10% buffer for last minute needs. Based on past direction of the Board, the proportional share calculation was presented to the Board with the exclusion of the City of Downey, with contributions from the City to be further discussed. Current members Cities to be refunded upon payment from the City of Downey. The meeting was opened to discussion by the Board.

Director Macias (Huntington Park) asked for clarification on the numbers that were presented to the Board. Executive Director Shen clarified that the table illustrates past member dues for FY2022-23, advance member dues, and the additional supplemental payment needed.

Director Barrows (Cerritos) asked on what would happen if member cities did not pay additional needed funds. Executive Director Shen reported that staff is working with City Managers to pursue payments. He also asked Board Members to ensure that their respective City Managers are aware of the need for payment, particularly given the expensive costs of auditing at a fixed price and record keeping.

No further comments or discussion was held by the Board.

MOTION: Board Director Gonzalez (Cudahy) moved to approve the Item. Treasurer Aguayo (Paramount) seconded the motion. The item was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 8 – ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR RECORDS AND ASSETS

Recommended Actions: Approve proposed administrative procedures for handling records and small equipment.

No written public comments were received prior to the meeting. No additional public comments were received during the meeting.

Executive Director Shen informed the Board of the approach taken to handling past records and ensure a transparent and legally defensible process. In absence of an adopted Records Retention Procedure, staff obtained the Gateway Cities COG procedure as a general guide. Additionally, office equipment items were identified in the agenda package. The meeting was opened to comments by the Board.

Director Martinez (Maywood) recommended staff to digitize records to Google Drive. Executive Director Shen replied that the scanning and uploading process would be an extensive and expensive process.

Director Barrows (Cerritos) asked for clarification on what kind of office equipment was in discussion. Executive Director Shen reported that the equipment consisted of audio, stationary, and display equipment.

Alternate Director Avalos (South Gate) reported that further discussion with city council will need to occur if South Gate were to acquire the equipment.

MOTION: Director Klipp (Los Angeles County) moved to approve the proposed administrative procedures. Secretary Macias seconded the motion. The Item was approved unanimously by roll call vote. Action on office equipment was deferred until the next regular meeting.

ITEM 9 – Cancellation of August and October 2023 Board of Directors Regular Meetings

Recommended Actions: Cancel the Board's August 9, 2023 and October 11, 2023

Regular Meetings for cost-saving purposes, conduct regular meetings on September 13, 2023 and November 8, 2023, and hold December 13, 2023 as needed.

No written public comments were received prior to the meeting. No additional public comments were received during the meeting.

No discussion was held by the Board.

MOTION: Director Gonzalez (Cudahy) moved to approve Item. Secretary Macias seconded the motion. The Item was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

ITEM 10 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VERBAL REPORT

No further comments were made by the Executive Director.

ITEM 11 – CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Taj thanked the Board for their presence and participation. Next meeting to be held in person on Wednesday September 13, 2023 at the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Clearwater Building in Paramount at 6:30 pm.

ITEM 12 – ANNOUNCEMENTS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

No further comments were made by the Board.

ITEM 13 – ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM Pacific Daylight Time.

Attest:

Secretary


Approved:

Chair

**ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ECO-RAPID TRANSIT**

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE MONTH JULY 2023
(PREPARED ON AUGUST 9, 2023)**

	<u>Bank of the West</u>
*Cash, beginning balance (deficit)	-\$17,364.04
	-\$17,364.04
<u>Receipts:</u>	
Total cash receipts	\$0.00
<u>Expenditures:</u>	
Bank fee/Positive Pay Service/Other Charges	-\$10.00
Warrants, approved on 7/12/23	-\$43,940.95
Check No. 13330 issued 7/25/23 (HR&A Advisors, Inc.)	-\$5,800.00
Total expenditures	-\$49,750.95
Cash, ending balance	-\$67,114.99

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Isabel Aguayo, Treasurer

Reviewed by City of South Gate:


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**ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ECO-RAPID TRANSIT**

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE MONTH AUGUST 2023
(PREPARED ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2023)**

	<u>Bank of the West</u>
*Cash, beginning balance (deficit)	-\$67,114.99
	<u>-\$67,114.99</u>
<u>Receipts:</u>	
City of Artesia (Membership)	\$15,540.52
City of Huntington Park (Membership)	\$13,888.00
City of Cudahy (Membership)	\$6,368.00
City of Downey (Membership)	\$27,875.76
City of Artesia (Artesia TOD Governance Invoice No. 14)	\$73,221.30
City of Paramount (Membership)	\$13,388.00
Total cash receipts	<u>\$150,281.58</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>	
Bank fee/Positive Pay Service/Other Charges	-\$175.00
Warrants, dated 8/9/23	-\$18,231.68
Total expenditures	<u>-\$18,406.68</u>
Cash, ending balance	<u><u>\$64,759.91</u></u>

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Isabel Aguayo, Treasurer

Reviewed by City of South Gate:

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**ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ECO-RAPID TRANSIT
WARRANT REGISTER
(AUGUST 9, 2023)**

NAME	AMOUNT
HR&A ADVISORS, INC. (Grant Funds)	\$5,800.00
SHEN AND ASSOCIATES, LLC (Admin General)	\$5,119.60
38ALPHA, LLC (Admin General)	\$5,000.00
BRUNO NAULLS (General Fund)	\$2,995.00
MARIA BARQUERA (General Fund)	\$80.00
PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (General Fund)	\$5,037.08
	\$24,031.68

VOIDED CHECKS

\$0.00

REPLACEMENT CHECKS

\$0.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

\$24,031.68

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Check #	Invoice #	Dated	Name	Distribution	Net Amount
13330	INV1383	5/29/2023	HR&A ADVISORS, INC. (Grant Funds)	Professional Services/Artesia TOD Governance	\$5,800.00
13331	2023-07	7/31/2023	SHEN AND ASSOCIATES, LLC (Admin General)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$5,119.60
13332	2023-07	7/31/2023	38ALPHA, LLC (Admin General)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$5,000.00
13333	2023-07	7/31/2023	BRUNO NAULLS (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$2,995.00
13334	2023-07	7/31/2023	MARIA BARQUERA (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$80.00
13335	2023-07	7/31/2023	PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$5,037.08
Sub Total Disbursements					\$24,031.68

Voided Checks

Replacement Checks

Total Disbursements

\$0.00

Approved for payment by Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors

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\$24,031.68

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Reviewed by City of South Gate:

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**ORANGELINE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ECO-RAPID TRANSIT
WARRANT REGISTER
(SEPTEMBER 13, 2023)**

NAME	AMOUNT
SHEN AND ASSOCIATES, LLC (Admin General)	\$5,131.53
38ALPHA, LLC (Admin General)	\$5,081.90
BRUNO NAULLS (General Fund)	\$1,000.00
PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (General Fund)	\$5,088.17
COLANTUONO, HIGHSMITH & WHATLEY (General Fund)	\$5,850.00
COLANTUONO, HIGHSMITH & WHATLEY (General Fund)	\$5,838.14
	\$27,989.74

VOIDED CHECKS

SHEN AND ASSOCIATES, LLC (Admin General)	-\$5,119.60
38ALPHA, LLC (Admin General)	-\$5,000.00
BRUNO NAULLS (General Fund)	-\$2,995.00
MARIA BARQUERA (General Fund)	-\$80.00
PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (General Fund)	-\$5,037.08
	-\$18,231.68

REPLACEMENT CHECKS

SHEN AND ASSOCIATES, LLC (Admin General)	\$5,119.60
38ALPHA, LLC (Admin General)	\$5,000.00
BRUNO NAULLS (General Fund)	\$2,995.00
MARIA BARQUERA (General Fund)	\$80.00
PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (General Fund)	\$5,037.08
	\$18,231.68

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

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 **19.74**



REPORT: 09/13/23
RUN: 09/13/23

Check #	Invoice #	Dated	Name	Distribution	Net Amount
13341	2023-08	8/31/2023	SHEN AND ASSOCIATES, LLC (Admin General)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$5,131.53
13342	2023-08	8/31/2023	38ALPHA, LLC (Admin General)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$5,081.90
13343	2023-08	8/31/2023	BRUNO NAULLS (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$1,000.00
13345	2023-08	8/31/2023	PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (General Fund)	Professional Services/General Fund	\$5,088.17
13346	56505	6/7/2023	COLANTUONO, HIGHSMITH & WHATLEY (General Fund)	Legal Services/General Fund	\$5,850.00
13347	56891	7/11/2023	COLANTUONO, HIGHSMITH & WHATLEY (General Fund)	Legal Services/General Fund	\$5,838.14
Sub Total Disbursements					\$27,989.74
Voided Checks					
13331		08/09/23	SHEN AND ASSOCIATES, LLC (Admin General)		-\$5,119.60
13332		08/09/23	38ALPHA, LLC (Admin General)		-\$5,000.00
13333		08/09/23	BRUNO NAULLS (General Fund)		-\$2,995.00
13334		08/09/23	MARIA BARQUERA (General Fund)		-\$80.00
13335		08/09/23	PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (General Fund)		-\$5,037.08
					-\$18,231.68
Replacement Checks					
13336 13331		08/09/23	SHEN AND ASSOCIATES, LLC (Admin General)		\$5,119.60
13337 13332		08/09/23	38ALPHA, LLC (Admin General)		\$5,000.00
13338 13333		08/09/23	BRUNO NAULLS (General Fund)		\$2,995.00
13339 13334		08/09/23	MARIA BARQUERA (General Fund)		\$80.00
13340 13335		08/09/23	PRO-TECH PROPERTY INSPECTIONS, INC. (General Fund)		\$5,037.08
					\$18,231.68
Total Disbursements					\$0.00
Approved for payment by Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors					\$27,989.74

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Christopher Ryan

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Reviewed by City of South Gate:

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AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors

FROM: Eric C. Shen, Executive Director 

DATE: September 13, 2023

SUBJECT: **ITEM 6: Update on the Establishment of the WSAB Corridor Cities Committee by the Gateway Cities Council of Governments**

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file.

ISSUES

Ms. Marisa Perez, Executive Deputy to Metro Board Director Fernando Dutra, from the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG) will provide an update on the establishment of the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) Project Corridor Cities Committee, including timeline, membership concept, and purposes.

BACKGROUND

In July 2023, the Board of Directors instructed staff to engage in conversation with GCCOG and explore opportunities for restructuring. On August 9, 2023, ERT Executive Director, Eric Shen, held a formal meeting with Mr. Hector De La Torre, GCCOG Executive Director and Ms. Marisa Perez GCCOG Executive Deputy. The meeting was also guided by Ms. Ivy Tsai, GCCOG General Counsel and Mr. Matthew Summers, ERT General Counsel. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. De La Torre agreed to present a proposal to GCCOG's Governing Board for creating a new committee that will continue advocating for the WSAB Project at policy level. In concept, the new committee would be open to jurisdictions within GCCOG and situated along the new transit corridor, most of them are current ERT members. Ms. Perez will provide additional details of the new committee at the ERT Board meeting on September 13 and with the WSAB City Managers Technical Advisory Committee on September 14, 2023.

Parallel to the GCCOG's process of establishing the new WSAB Corridor Cities Committee, staff will seek clear direction from the Board on the Authority's operations beyond December 31, 2023 including a formal termination of the joint powers authority.

ERT BOD 20230913 06 WSAB CCC VF1

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AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors

FROM: Eric C. Shen, Executive Director 

DATE: September 13, 2023

SUBJECT: ITEM 7: Update on the WSAB Rebranding Activities

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file.

ISSUES

Mr. Mark Dierking, Director of Community Relations, Metro's Local Government & External Affairs will provide an update on the rebranding efforts for the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) Project.

BACKGROUND

Over recent months, Metro has actively engaged in a series of outreach initiatives aimed at fostering public interest and engagement in the process of reimagining the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) Project, including its name and identity. In the forthcoming presentation, Metro's team will provide an overview of their endeavors to the Board and seek further input on this endeavor.

ERT BOD 20230913 07 WSAB REBRANDING VF

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AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors

FROM: Eric C. Shen, Executive Director 

DATE: September 13, 2023

SUBJECT: **ITEM 8: Authorization to Transfer Two Outside Funded Items from the Authority to Gateway Cities Council of Governments**

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize Executive Director to work with Los Angeles Metro and Caltrans to transfer grant-funded project/program to Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG).

ISSUES

As Eco-Rapid Transit contemplates its operations beyond December 31, 2023, two grant-funded projects involving the Los Angeles Metro (Metro) and the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) need to be resolved. Two feasible options include, (1) transferring to another as lead agency or (2) de-obligating the funding with the granting agency (that is, giving up the funding). Upon receiving approval from the Board for the lead agency transfer, Metro will reallocate \$130,000 from Eco-Rapid Transit to GCCOG to support the rebranding activities of the WSAB Project. Staff will also collaborate with Caltrans to redirect \$504,000 from the Sustainable Communities Grant opportunity to GCCOG or another suitable entity within GCCOG.

BACKGROUND

I. WSAB Rebranding Support – Funded by Metro

In mid-2023, Metro allocated \$130,000 to Eco-Rapid Transit for supporting the WSAB Project rebranding activities. Eco-Rapid could augment its current professional staff with outside consultants to carry out necessary activities. Metro would reimburse incurred labor and direct costs. However, Eco-Rapid Transit has not initiated any work or incurred any costs due to its financial constraints since the budget became available. After discussions with Metro and GCCOG, Metro could reallocate the entire amount to GCCOG with the concurrence by the ERT Board. The additional budget will enable GCCOG staff to continue their on-going WSAB project rebranding activities.

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Hon. Maria Davila

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General Counsel
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II. Community Corridor Transportation Platform – Funded by Caltrans’ Sustainable Communities Grant

On November 1, 2022, Eco-Rapid Transit received the Notice to Proceed (NTP) from Caltrans for advancing the “Community Corridor Transportation Platform” (CCTP) project. The total estimated project cost is \$569,298, to be funded with \$504,000 of Caltrans grant and \$65,298 of local match. The entire project needs to be completed by February 2025 (28 months).

At the time when the application was submitted in October 2021, Eco-Rapid Transit had assumed sufficient membership dues would be used to pay for labor cost for the project and be counted as local match. However, the Authority’s on-going financial situation restricted its ability to advance any portion of the project after receiving the NTP. As Eco-Rapid Transit contemplates its operations beyond December 31, 2023, Caltrans has been inquiring about the Authority’s plan to address its contractual obligation on the CCTP Project. Eco-Rapid Transit may choose to give up the grant completely or seek another lead entity, such as GCCOG or a city within GCCOG to advance the project. The new lead agency on the CCTP may negotiate with Caltrans on the scope of work or schedule, which may result in a reduced grant amount by Caltrans.

Staff have communicated with Caltrans and expressed the Authority’s preference to keep the grant within GCCOG region instead of giving up the grant completely. With the Board’s approval to proceed with the process, staff will coordinate with GCCOG and Caltrans for in-depth discussions to seek a path forward. These actions will require careful consideration and coordination to ensure the seamless continuation of these important projects beyond the specified date.

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County of Los Angeles
Hon. Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Forth District

City of Artesia
Hon. Ali Sajjad Taj
Chair of the Board

City of Bell

City of Bell Gardens

City of Cerritos
Hon. Bruce Borrows

City of Cudahy
Hon. Jose R. Gonzalez
Vice Chair of the Board

City of Glendale

City of Huntington Park
Hon. Karina Macias
Secretary of the Board

City of Maywood
Ms. Angelina Martinez

City of Paramount
Hon. Isabel Aguayo
Treasurer of the Board

City of South Gate
Hon. Maria Davila

**Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena
Airport Authority**
Hon. Frank Quintero

Executive Director
Eric C. Shen, P.E., PTP, CPE


General Counsel
Matthew T. Summers

Ex-Officio

Internal Auditor

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors

FROM: Eric C. Shen, Executive Director 

DATE: September 13, 2023

SUBJECT: ITEM 9: Update on the Authority's Restructuring Progress

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize Executive Director and General Counsel's Office to take steps to terminate Eco-Rapid Transit subject to final Board approval.

ISSUES

Staff are seeking the Board's authorization to take steps, including all debts are paid off and past audits are completed, to terminate Eco-Rapid, subject to final Board approval.

BACKGROUND

At its July 2023 meeting, the Board approved a limited operating budget for FY2023-24 through December 31, 2023 and directed staff to explore restructuring options with Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG).

On August 9, 2023, ERT Executive Director, Eric Shen, held a formal meeting with Mr. Hector De La Torre, GCCOG Executive Director and Ms. Marisa Perez GCCOG Executive Deputy. The meeting was also guided by Ms. Ivy Tsai, GCCOG General Counsel and Mr. Matthew Summers, ERT General Counsel. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. De La Torre agreed to present a proposal to GCCOG's Governing Board for creating a new committee that will continue advocating for the WSAB Project at policy level. In concept, the new committee would be open to jurisdictions within GCCOG and situated along the new transit corridor, most of them are current ERT members. Ms. Perez will provide additional details of the new committee at the ERT Board meeting on September 13 and with the WSAB City Managers Technical Advisory Committee on September 14, 2023.

The new GCCOG committee could be in operation by early 2024. Other than the City of Glendale and the Burbank Airport Authority, the current Eco-Rapid Transit members within GCCOG region will be eligible to join the new committee.

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While the current Eco-Rapid Transit Board may consider keeping the current joint powers authority in an inactive state after December 31, 2023, the Board would need to consider the regulatory compliance and associated costs. In the proposed GCCOG Corridor Cities Committee concept, Mr. Da La Torre has clearly stated that GCCOG does not have the resources to administer the inactive Eco-Rapid Transit.

In the interest of accountability, the Board is advised to contemplate the formal termination of the joint powers authority rather than maintaining it in an inactive state. Should the Board consider and approve staff's recommendation, staff will begin taking steps to terminate Eco-Rapid Transit as a joint powers authority, subject to final Board approval.

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