



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council

Item No. _____

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Commerce, California, approving an appropriation under the Washington Boulevard Light Rail Transit Coalition Memorandum of Understanding for the City of Whittier, the lead agency, for the purposes of developing an Economic Analysis of Impacts and Beneficial Opportunities associated with the Metro Gold Line Washington Boulevard Alignment

MEETING DATE: December 1, 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a Resolution authorizing and approving an appropriation in the amount of \$68,651.25 to lead fiscal agent City of Whittier, under the Washington Boulevard Light Rail Transit Coalition Memorandum of Understanding, to cover the City's portion to develop an Economic Analysis of Impacts and Beneficial Opportunities associated with the Metro Gold Line Washington Boulevard Alignment and to complete a streamlined work program design to help meet the goals and objectives of the corridor.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

On October 15, 2019 City Council approved a resolution adopting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Commerce, City of Montebello, City of Pico Rivera, City of Santa Fe Springs, and the City of Whittier, collectively, these entities are known as parties of the Washington Boulevard Light Rail Transit Coalition.

The purpose of this MOU is to cooperatively pursue the extension of the Gold Line along Washington Boulevard. The Parties will seek funding and approvals for the extension of the Gold Line along Atlantic and Washington Boulevards—originating near the current East Los Angeles Civic Center terminus of West Gold Line and terminating in the City of Whittier—with a 50 or 100 year long range plan allowing for a possible extension to Orange County and beyond.

Over the last several years, the five cities in partnership, have participated in advocating for the Washington Blvd alignment. These cities have dedicated countless hours studying, meeting, advocating, and engaging stakeholders. The cities support the Washington Boulevard alignment for the following reasons:

- It best supports regional land use objectives;
- It is projected to have the highest number of riders;
- It provides access to transit to the highest number of low income households and seniors;
- It provides services to the most transit-dependent populations;
- It allows the greatest overall user benefit hours, accessibility and connectivity;
- It connects communities by linking regional employment, education, shopping, healthcare and homes; and
- It provides an environmentally-friendly alternative to the detrimental impacts of freeway commuting and congestion and is an investment in a traditionally underserved region.

As part of the MOU, each City agreed to pay their proportional amount for fiscal and administrative costs related to the facilitation of the goals and purpose as stated in the MOU. Early this year the Coalition Cities agreed to circulate an RFP for the economic impact analysis for the corridor. During the October 29, 2020 Coalition meeting, four of the Cities agreed to retain Cordoba Corporation to help push the project forward and complete a streamlined work program design to help meet the goals and objectives associated with Metro Gold Line Washington Boulevard Alignment. The costs for the scope of services Cordoba Corporation has outlined in their proposal will be \$274,605 that would be split between four of the Coalition Cities, which brings each City's share to \$68,651.25.

Staff recommends that the City approve an appropriation in the amount of \$68,651.25 to cover its share for the economic analysis of impacts and to help identify how the cities may advantage from the potential opportunities and benefits of a significant regional transportation system, such as the Eastside Extension.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve staff recommendation
2. Decline staff recommendation
3. Provide further direction

FISCAL IMPACT:

If the City Council approves the aforementioned recommendation, staff will facilitate an appropriation in the amount of **\$68,651.25** from the City's Measure AA Fund – Economic Development allocation to pay their portion under the Washington Boulevard Light Rail Transit Coalition MOU to the City of Whittier, the lead fiscal agent.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

The issue before the Council is consistent with the Infrastructure and Facilities Guiding Principle 4 of the City's Strategic Action Plan: "Develop and invest in infrastructure and beautification projects that support economic growth".

Reviewed by:	Josh Brooks, Acting Finance Director
Approved as to form:	Noel Tapia, City Attorney

Respectfully submitted: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Washington Boulevard Light Rail Transit Coalition MOU
3. City Council Resolution Approving Washington Boulevard Light Rail Transit Coalition MOU
4. Cordoba Corporation Proposal