

REGIONAL TRANSIT ISSUE PAPER

Agenda Item No.	Board Meeting Date	Open/Closed Session	Information/Action Item	Issue Date
27	05/14/12	Open	Information	04/18/12

Subject: Blue Line to Cosumnes River College Update

ISSUE

Update for the Blue Line to Cosumnes River College Light Rail Project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Information

FISCAL IMPACT

None

DISCUSSION

The Blue Line to Cosumnes River College project (Project), also known as the South Sacramento Corridor Phase 2 project, will extend Sacramento Regional Transit District's (RT's) light rail service from its existing terminus at Meadowview Road south and east 4.3 miles to Cosumnes River College (CRC). The extension will link the South Corridor, the fastest growing portion of Sacramento County, with Downtown, the northeast Sacramento corridor and Rancho Cordova or Folsom in the east corridor. The project includes four stations located at Morrison Creek, Franklin Boulevard, Center Parkway, and Cosumnes River College. The estimated Project cost is \$270 million.

Since the last Board update in August 2011, the Project has begun picking up momentum. On September 29, 2011, RT received a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) for the parking structure at the Cosumnes River College station that Los Rios Community College District will construct. The LONP allows RT to use non-New starts funds to start the LONP work, while preserving RT's ability to claim these monies as matching funds once the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) has been executed. Approval of the LONP resulted in a cost savings of about \$5.3 million to the project, which allows those funds to be shifted to project contingency. The ground-breaking for the parking structure was held November 7, 2011. The NTP was issued to the Contractor by Los Rios Community College District on November 30, 2011. Due to the unusually dry winter, the contractor has been able to progress construction activities such that they are currently about 3 weeks ahead of schedule.

RT awarded the aerial structures contract for the Project in December 2011 in order to preserve the State Transportation Improvement Program funding allocated to the project. In order to provide a Notice to Proceed (NTP) in advance of the execution of a FFGA, RT must request and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) must issue a LONP. Staff submitted the requested documentation to FTA in December 2011.

Approved:

Presented:

Final 5/7/12

General Manager/CEO

AGM, Engineering and Construction

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In February 2012, the Project received an overall “Medium” rating in the FY2013 New Starts Report and is recommended to receive an allocation of \$45.66 million. This allocation would go toward fulfilling the federal share for project funding of \$135 million. In addition, a number of reviews by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have been completed. A risk review of the project and the Financial Capacity Assessment were completed in February and April 2012, respectively. These evaluations were required as inputs to the Final Design Readiness Report which was completed in April.

RT received the aerial structures LONP on April 17, 2012. MCM Construction, the successful bidder, was issued a NTP on May 2, 2012. A ground-breaking ceremony for the aerial structures is planned May 23, 2012. The start of construction on the aerial structures in 2012 will allow the Project to be completed in 2015. The consequences of not receiving the LONP would have pushed the project completion to 2016. The competitive bid climate and issuance of the LONP has resulted in a cost savings to the project of approximately \$3.8 million on the aerial structures component of the project, which allows those funds to be shifted to project contingency.

Before work begins in earnest at the Morrison Creek bridge construction site, staff hosted a public meeting for the Detroit Boulevard neighborhood on May 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the Susan B. Anthony School with MCM Construction to provide information regarding expected construction activities.

A new website has been developed for the Project: www.blueline2crc.com. The new website will be used as RT’s central repository for project information and be referenced on all outreach materials.

As of this writing, RT expects to receive authorization from FTA to enter Final Design no later than May 15, 2012. Approval to enter Final Design grants additional pre-award authority to procure long lead-time materials needed for the project. Once the procurements are prioritized, staff will return to the Board to request authorization to advertise.

Based upon the recommendations from the risk review and the current anticipated schedule for an executed FFGA in December 2012, the project schedule has been updated to reflect a new Revenue Service Date of September 2015. As a part of the requirement for FFGA documentation, the project cost estimates are being reviewed for consistency and accuracy. A cursory review of the cost estimate indicates that the slip in the project schedule is not expected to impact the Project cost estimate of \$270 million.