

**Southeast Gateway Line Corridor Cities Committee**

The Southeast Gateway Line, formerly known as the West Santa Ana Branch, is a project by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), the first 15-mile segment of which will connect multiple cities in Southeast Los Angeles County, with the eventual extension of the line to Union Station in Downtown LA. In order to advance this project, the Eco-Rapid Transit Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was created in the early 2000s. The JPA was comprised of the following agencies: City of Artesia, City of Bell, City of Bell Gardens, City of Cerritos, City of Cudahy, City of Glendale, City of Huntington Park, City of Maywood, City of Paramount, City of South Gate, the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority, and the County of Los Angeles, which joined the JPA in June of 2023, pursuant to a February 28, 2023 Board Motion (23-0936, Item 67-C). As the environmental phase of this project was ending, the JPA was terminated in late 2023 (23-4319, Item 12), with the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) accepting the remaining work of the JPA, in order to coordinate efforts within the project’s corridor cities for the next phases of the project.

On August 23, 2024, the Southeast Gateway Line was awarded a Record of Decision by the Federal Transit Authority, officially concluding the environmental phase

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

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HORVATH \_\_\_\_\_

and advancing the project to pre-construction, utility relocation, and federal funding efforts. For the next phases of the project, the Gateway Cities Council of Government (COG) is convening a Coordinating Cities Committee (CCC), with membership invitations extended to all jurisdictions along the project corridor. To date, all project corridor jurisdictions that were in the Eco-Rapid JPA have formally joined the COG's Southeast Gateway Line CCC, with the exception of the County of Los Angeles.

While the County's participation in the Eco-Rapid JPA was an annual fee of \$42,803.86, subject to increases thereafter, the annual fee to participate in the Gateway Cities COG's Southeast Gateway Line JPA will be \$10,000, subject to increases thereafter. The County has a vested interest in working with corridor cities as the project advances toward the 30% design state, when the 3% local contribution requirement will be calculated. Additionally, the CCC will consider important questions around utility franchise agreements, first-/last-mile connectivity, funding, and technical requirements necessary to advance the project from design/engineering to construction. Given that the County stands to benefit from this work in coordination with all other project corridor jurisdictions, it is within the County's interest to participate in the Gateway Cities COG's Southeast Gateway Line CCC.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the recommended actions are not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act;
2. Approve the County joining the Gateway Cities Council of Governments' Southeast Gateway Line Corridor Cities Committee as a participating member;

3. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to pay the first year's membership dues of \$10,000;
4. Authorize the CEO to pay future years' annual membership dues, as agreed to by the CCC, every year thereafter until the Corridor Cities Committee concludes or if the County terminates its membership in the Committee;
5. Authorize the CEO to terminate the County's membership, contingent upon prior notice to the Board including justification for the intended termination; and
6. Authorize and direct the Chair to designate a Director and one or more alternate Directors to the CCC as the County representative(s).

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JH: lk