



CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763

July 26, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT: July 20–26, 2012

➤ **CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

- In an announcement made late last month to members of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chief Executive Officer Art Leahy stated his intention to terminate extension of the Gold Line beyond Azusa, asserting there are no funds to continue the Gold Line to Claremont/Montclair. Instead, Leahy announced money has been reassigned to other projects throughout Los Angeles, leaving elected officials from the eastern part of Los Angeles County and Montclair frustrated with the decision.

Projects receiving additional funding include:

- The Metro Connector to LAX
- The Green Line Extension to the South Bay
- The West Santa Ana Corridor transit project
- The Regional Connector (in downtown L.A.)
- The Gold Line Eastside Extension from East L.A. to either South El Monte or Whittier

Advocates in support of extending the Gold Line to Claremont/Montclair note that Metro is not meeting the 2008 voter mandate supporting Measure R—the original language of Measure R, which was approved by the voters of Los Angeles County, specifically delineated the Gold Line Foothill Extension as terminating in Claremont. In 2008, San Gabriel Valley legislators campaigned for voter approval of Measure R and the Gold Line Foothill Extension to Claremont; and Metro staff supported this effort by

identifying the "Gold Line Foothill Extension to Claremont" in their public relations materials.

Metro officials now argue that cost estimates for the various projects designated for Measure R funding have increased considerably. The estimated cost of the Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Claremont is now estimated at \$1.6 billion, not the \$851 million originally projected. The \$851 million estimate is adequate for the Gold Line's 11.5 mile Pasadena-to-Azusa segment, scheduled for completion in 2015; however, Metro requires an estimated \$764 million to include the roughly 12.6 additional miles called for in the original voter-mandated terminus to Claremont.

Even with elimination of the Gold Line extension to Claremont, Metro requires elimination of Measure R's sunset clause to achieve necessary funding targets. Elimination of the sunset clause is encapsulated in Assembly Bill 1466—a ballot measure asking voters in Los Angeles County to remove Measure R's sunset clause. The motivation for eliminating the sunset clause is to allow for increased borrowing to fund MTA projects with a pledge of future revenues.

Extension of Measure R by voters would accelerate extending the Gold Line from East Los Angeles to the areas of either South El Monte or Whittier by approximately 13 years—extension would also help fund the shortfall for the Alameda Corridor East Rail Project, which includes 20 grade separations designed to increase mobility in connection with the movement of goods from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach through the San Gabriel Valley. The proposed extension of Measure R also includes additional funding for the 710 Freeway project.

Members of Congress Judy Chu, Adam Schiff, Grace Napolitano and Joe Baca submitted a letter urging Metro to amend the expenditure plan and include funding for completion of the project to Claremont. In their letter, Congressional Members urged the Metro Board to accurately update the cost of the line to its terminus in Claremont. The letter also urges Metro to fund the gap between the \$851 million currently identified in the Measure R tax expenditure plan, and the estimated total cost of \$1.6 billion for both Phase 2A (Pasadena to Azusa) and Phase 2B (Azusa to Claremont) of the Gold Line Foothill Extension to be made up with state, federal or leftover Measure R funds not used in the future by other projects, subject to Board approval. California State Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez also introduced an amendment to AB 1446, mandating extension of the Gold Line to Claremont.

Despite the push by federal, state, and local officials to incorporate funding for the Gold Line extension to Claremont, the Metro Board, in a 10-3 vote held earlier this month, approved a ballot initiative to extend Measure R for an additional 30-years (to 2069), with no funding for the Gold Line Foothill

extension east of Azusa. The Metro Board hopes to put the Measure R issue to voters in November, but the State Legislature must first approve Assembly Bill 1446. If the bill is signed by Governor Brown, it would allow the measure's extension on the ballot.

The Azusa-to-C Claremont extension still has about four more years of design, engineering, and preparation before construction could start, which gives the Gold Line Construction Authority time to assemble the funding from other sources, if needed. While there may not be immediate Measure R funding for the Gold Line extension to Claremont, Metro purportedly intends to seek other funds for the project. For example, Metro is seeking state and federal tax dollars to extend the Gold Line past Azusa.

Metro officials also indicate Phase 2B may yet still benefit from voter approval of Measure R extension funds as contained in AB 1466. A recent amendment under consideration by the Metro Board would allow highway funds within a potential Measure R extension to be used for transit projects such as the Gold Line Extension to Claremont. Reportedly, the extension of Measure R would result in about \$820 million in revenue to fund highway projects in the San Gabriel Valley area. The proposed amendment could potentially result in about \$200 million for the Alameda Corridor–East and about \$600 million for the Gold Line Foothill Extension to Claremont, which would help bridge the funding gap. The amendment will likely be considered for final Metro approval later this month—the amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote of the board and would also require voter approval as part of the November ballot measure to eliminate Measure R's sunset clause.

AB 1600, currently before the Legislature, would extend the Gold Line Foothill Extension to include the City of Montclair. The bill also adds Montclair to the list of "extension cities" for purposes of board membership for the Authority. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) has responsibility for operating all completed phases of the Gold line, including the portion extending into San Bernardino County and terminating at the Montclair Transit Center, subject to approval of the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) Board of Directors. SANBAG must enter into an operations and maintenance agreement with LACMTA, agree to reimburse LACMTA for the costs of operating that portion of the line located in San Bernardino County, and enter into a construction agreement with the Construction Authority for that portion of the project extending into Montclair.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- Last Wednesday afternoon, 100 youth who attend the City's Summer Day Camp and Summer Day programs participated in the first annual Summer Youth Talent Showcase. The show was held in the Community Center and

was attended by over eighty parents and family members. Interviews of performers as they entered on the red carpet were streamed live for the audience. All participants were treated to a hot dog lunch at the conclusion of the talent show. The young entertainers very much enjoyed the experience and look forward to performing again next year.

A picture collage of the event is shown on page 9.

- Tuesday night was the third of four concerts in the park during July. Approximately 150 people came out to Alma Hofman Park to enjoy the soothing sounds of The Ron Johnson Band performing big band favorites. The Montclair Kiwanis sold candy, popcorn, and drinks at the concert.

A picture of The Ron Johnson Band performing is featured on page 10.

Please join us next Tuesday, July 31, at 7 p.m. at Alma Hofman Park for the final concert of the summer concert series, featuring the popular classic rock band The Ravelers. During these concerts, the Splash Pad will remain open until 8 p.m.

- Yesterday, the monthly Senior Nutrition Birthday Party was held at the Community Center. The 4th of July-themed event was attended by 250 seniors and included a lunch of barbecued chicken with all the fixings and cake and ice cream for dessert.

Senior Center volunteer Dee Copeland organized a photo display of senior participants and/or their children who served in the military from the Civil War to the current Afghanistan War. The Montclair Walkers Choral Group also performed a variety of patriotic songs.

Everyone had a wonderful time. A picture collage of the party is shown on page 11.

- Mark your calendars to join us for the annual All Employee Summer Bar-B-Que on Tuesday, August 14, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in the Senior Center. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served with all the trimmings and side dishes, plus a special sweet treat. See you there!

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- The Montclair Police Department is teaming up with Target once again for the 29th Annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7, 2012, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The event will be held in the Target store parking lot located at Central Avenue and Moreno Street.

National Night Out has proven to be an effective, inexpensive, and enjoyable program that promotes neighborhood spirit and police-community

partnerships in the fight for a safer nation. Besides having a police presence at the event, the Montclair Fire Department will participate along with members of the business community. Target will provide refreshments and games.

The community is invited to drop by and meet their local public safety representatives.

➤ ***FIRE DEPARTMENT***

- In July, Fire employees participated in annual commercial rooftop ventilation training instructed by Engineers Steve Ward and Derek Holloway and Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Jackson. This year's training was unique because Fire employees were able to train in the field using City-owned commercial structures slated for demolition in the 10700 block of Monte Vista Avenue instead of having to utilize training props.

During the drill, Fire personnel used training saws to cut holes in the roof to simulate ventilating a structure. Rooftop ventilation is a vital, life-saving technique used to remove the products of combustion (smoke, heat, and flames) from a burning building, which increases visibility and allows Firefighters to search for victims and find the seat of the fire for rapid extinguishment. This type of hands-on training prepares our Firefighters for a real incident involving a working fire.

➤ ***PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY***

- On Tuesday, staff met with representatives from GLJ Partners in a preconstruction meeting to discuss the upcoming start of the Paseos development project at the northeast corner of Monte Vista Avenue and Moreno Street, the site of the former Sam's Club. This 385-unit upscale apartment complex is the first site to be developed within the boundaries of the North Montclair Downtown Specific Plan. Actual construction is scheduled to start on Monday, July 30.
- Citigroup, Inc. has reported that U.S. consumer spending will slow in the second half of 2012 as shoppers reduce purchases amidst a weak economic recovery, a volatile stock market, and uncertainties surrounding the presidential election. In a survey commissioned by the New York-based banking company, 81 percent of the respondents planned to spend the same or less in the second half of the year than a year ago. About two-thirds of the respondents said they expected the economy to deteriorate or not improve. This will make the important back-to-school shopping season challenging for retailers.

Citigroup first noticed a slowdown in April when same-store sales trailed its forecasts for the first time since December. Sales remained soft in May and June. Several retailers and consumer companies have already reported weakening sales or have cut annual profit projections. Some companies such as Limited Brands, Inc.; Macy's, Inc.; Lowe's Companies; and Clorox Co. have cut profit projections or trailed analysts' profit estimates.

U.S. retail sales fell 0.2 percent in May following a similar decline in April according to the U.S. Commerce Department. Sales, excluding automobiles, have fallen to the lowest point in two years. However, some companies known for low prices or those that sell nondiscretionary items may benefit as shoppers retrench according to the Citigroup report.

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*"Do or do not. There is no try."
~Yoda, Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*

JULY 2012



31	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
31	Concert in the Park featuring The Ravelers Alma Hofman Park	7:00 p.m.

AUGUST 2012



A decorative banner with a light blue background and a red border. It features the text "Back to School!" in a playful, multi-colored font. On either side of the text are illustrations of a red apple with a green leaf and a yellow pencil with a pink eraser and a blue lead tip.

6	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
13	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
14	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
14	All Employee Summer Bar-B-Que Senior Center	12:00 p.m.
16	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
16	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
20	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
20	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
27	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.

Montclair Summer Day Camp & Program 2012



CONCERT IN THE PARK
July 24, 2012



The Ron Johnson Band

Senior Center July Birthday Party

