



MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Howard W. Brown, Jr., City Manager 
CC: City Department Directors
Date: March 16, 2016
Re: **Bi-Monthly Update and Report (Week Ending Saturday, March 12, 2016)**

Administration

- Attended the City Manager's breakfast on March 10. We received a presentation from CALTRANS who, according to Shirley Casa Choate, is willing to be a partner with the city. We will be working on some items with them such as incidental funding to clean-up around the off-ramps and railroads, specifically, on the cleanup and maintenance of the Randolph Street bushes next to the railroad. I have also requested staff to provide quotes on repairing the gateway signage on Atlantic Avenue as well.
- Strategic Planning Work Retreat - The city held its first annual strategic planning retreat in Veterans Park on Saturday, March 12, 2016. The meeting was attended by the full council and several city staff members. Our facilitator, Mr. Henry Garcia, did an excellent job at preparing the outline, general targets and specific goals for the city. Our next step is to meet with staff and the facilitator to develop the strategies, performance measures and deliverables. The following is the strategic planning calendar: **I would like to have a draft of the strategic plan presented to the Council no later than April 27 for final adoption no later than May 11. I should have an outline and goals for your review no later than Friday, March 18.**
- Met with Mrs. Kimberly Ortega and Elizabeth Alcantar about needs. I spoke with them about several concerns related to partnering with LA County for a new library, additional street sweeping, and other concerns. They wanted to make the city aware County Supervisor, Hilda Solis, would like to meet with the City Council on **Thursday, April 7, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm (TBA) at 2677 Zoe Avenue, Second Floor, Huntington Park, CA.** I will have Angela Bustamante place this in your calendar. The supervisor will be present to greet you and introduce you to the department heads of the County in an effort to update the Council on services offered by LA County. According to the Supervisor's staff, they would like to get 100% participation. I explained to her that most of our council members would be at work during that time but the Mayor may be available.

Human Resources

- We are in the process of developing a job description for Community Services Manager position.
- Union negotiations are ongoing.
- On March 9, 2016, the Council approved the appointment of Mr. Derek Hull to serve as Community Development Director. Mr. Hull agreed to start Tuesday, April 5, 2016.
- We hired ten (10) part-time Recreation Leaders and (2) part-time Maintenance Workers.

Community Development Department

- The Gateway Council of Government has just developed a new website. The new website has a very progressive economic development portal that could help staff and business, and residents in our community better understand our demographics and psychographics. Their email is as follows: <http://www.gatewaycog.org/gateway/site-selection-tools>
- As many of you know, Blodgen Consulting Group is updating our general plan. Staff has engaged Blodgen Consulting group to develop an overlay zone or specific plan for the Atlantic Avenue and Gage Street Quadrant. This downtown plan is needed to create standards and expectations we have for development of this area. I have attached the proposal for your review. The cost is approximately \$20,000.

Finance Department

- We are currently working on the FY 2016-2017 Operating Budget for the City.
- The Finance Department is soliciting proposals to undertake a fee study for the city. This will require an expenditure of funds. We have yet to receive the proposal but am confident that the city's cost will be minimal. The purpose of the fee study is to evaluate our current fees to see if they need to be increased, identify new fees that we are not charging for, and ensure the City generates enough revenue to pay for services we provide through various contractors.
- Bell Equity and Empowerment Fund (BEEF) Ordinance – this ordinance will create a fund of all monies, including interest. The monies accruing to the credit of the fund may be budgeted and expended only for the following purposes:
 - Economic Development
 - Public Image
 - City Management Improvements
 - Public Outreach

I am working on the draft now and will be sending it to the city attorney's office. The draft ordinance is similar to the "legacy" ordinance prepared by the city attorney's office but takes into account some areas of concern the council has with respect to the above. **My goal is to have a draft presented to you no later than April 27.**

Police Department

- We had shooting in the City on March 12, 2016. The victim was shot in the leg, is in stable condition and expected to live. No suspects apprehended. According to police, the victim is not very forthcoming with information.
- A burglary incident occurred on Gage and Atlantic. There were a number of law enforcement personnel which included LA Sheriffs and neighboring police departments and a helicopter. The incident resulted in no arrests or injury to citizens or staff.
- I have requested the Police Department to look at developing an Active Shooter program or work with the City of Southgate or LA County Sheriff's Office to develop one tailored for the City of Bell.

Community Services Department

- We have 750 youth registered for the City Soccer program. The season starts in April and ends in October. We anticipate having upwards of 1000 children ages 8 – 17 by the end of October.
- As many of you know, we started Adult Sports a couple of years ago. We have two nights of adult soccer on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 8 pm – 10 pm. This event takes place at Nueva Vista. We have a total of ten (10) weeks of adult soccer per year.



City Manager

February 16, 2016

Terry Rodrigue
City Engineer
City of Bell
Department of Public Works
6330 Pine Ave
Bell, CA 90201

Dear Terry:

The City of Bell's Comprehensive Street Revitalization & Improvement Plan was selected as a finalist in the Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Award Program in the Efficient and Sustainable Road and Bridge Prevention, Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction Projects category. While the project was not selected for an award, it nonetheless exemplifies the vital efforts made by cities and counties to preserve and protect the public's investment in the local streets and road system. We applaud the hard work of all who made your project such a success.

Your project will be highlighted both in the Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards Program brochure and on a display board during the 2016 Public Works Officers Institute. Your application will also be added to the Local Streets and Roads database, which spotlights the importance of sustaining California's infrastructure.

Please contact Merrin Gerety at mgerety@counties.org or Meghan McKelvey at mmckelvey@cacities.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Machado
Director of Public Works
Stanislaus County
President
County Engineers Association of California

Timm Borden
Director of Public Works
City of Cupertino
President
League's Public Works'
Department



Eco-Rapid Transit, formerly known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit system that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The system is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of this region utilizing safe, advanced transit technology to expand economic growth that maximizes ridership in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

- City of Artesia
- City of Bell
- City of Bell Gardens
- City of Bellflower
- City of Cudahy
- City of Downey
- City of Glendale
- City of Huntington Park
- City of Maywood
- City of Paramount
- City of South Gate
- City of Vernon
- Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority

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Teresa L. Highsmith

Ex-Officio
Rene Bobadilla
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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Eco-Rapid Transit Moving Forward – Metro Approves \$18 Million for Corridor Planning

Paramount CA – March 3, 2016

Eco-Rapid Transit is moving forward with its partners on plans to make the West Santa Ana Branch a reality that will connect communities, create jobs and generate economic opportunities.

Last week, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) approved, on an 11 to 0 vote, \$18 million of Measure R funds for predevelopment and planning of Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) along the West Santa Ana Branch. Transit Oriented Communities will be a local and regional partnership that creates sustainable jobs, green space, healthy communities and infrastructure planning along the entire corridor. This board motion was sponsored by Metro Board Members Diane DuBois, Don Knabe, Eric Garcetti and Hilda Solis.

Eco-Rapid Transit Board Chair and City of South Gate Councilmember said, "I am very excited and pleased that the Metro Board of Directors approved this allocation of funds to our communities. These planning dollars enable us to work together and bring environmental and social justice to our disadvantaged communities. It brings jobs and economic opportunities for our cities."

State Senator Tony Mendoza added, "I am extremely pleased that the MTA Board of Directors voted to allocate eighteen million dollars of Measure R funds for the ECO-RAPID transit rail project. There has been tremendous support shown from statewide and regional leaders for this project which will transform our region and provide much-needed transportation options for the Gateway Cities' residents.

This builds upon recent efforts of Eco-Rapid Transit. On February 19, 2016, Eco-Rapid Transit and Senator Tony Mendoza hosted a group of legislators in Paramount. Mendoza and Davila said the meeting was a call to action for predevelopment planning and to push for transportation funding.

Metro Board Director and Lakewood City Councilwoman Diane DuBois and Metro CEO Phil Washington talked about the West Santa Ana Branch Transit corridor project and what it could mean to have this line that would run from Artesia to Downtown Los Angeles.

Downey City Councilman Luis Marquez, the immediate past chair of Eco-Rapid Transit, discussed why this is important to our area and said, "This project is so important for our communities. We are all in this together." The 20-mile line will serve an estimated 70,000 people per day and cost approximately \$4.3 to \$4.6 billion. It includes potential stations serving Artesia, Bellflower, Paramount, Downey, South Gate, Bell, Cudahy, Huntington Park and Vernon. It includes connectivity to Maywood, and Bell Gardens.



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Eco-Rapid Transit Eco-Rapid Transit is a joint powers authority with 13 members created to develop a transit system that is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. It is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of the gateway region, utilizing safe, and advanced transportation technology to expand economic growth that will benefit Southern California.

For more information, about Eco-Rapid Transit, please visit www.eco-rapid.org

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