

Recap of February Metro Board meeting

BY STEVE HYMON , FEBRUARY 28, 2020



The agenda is also [here](#) along with links to each item.

The webstream of the meeting [can be found here](#).

Among the items the Board tackled on Thursday, Feb. 27:

- The Board approved bringing a new Metro-operated, on-demand shared ride service called MicroTransit for short trips to six designated service zones in Los Angeles County in vehicles that hold up to 10 passengers.

MicroTransit will allow riders to plan entire trips — both MicroTransit (on-demand shared ride) and their bus and train rides – using real-time booking through a single mobile app, internet browser or Metro’s call center. Riders will be able to pay for the service by using their TAP card and TAP account, or with a debit, credit or prepaid credit card.

In order to launch MicroTransit, the Board will consider approving a \$29-million contract with the ridesharing company RideCo Inc. to partner with Metro to operate Metro’s future MicroTransit service. The Board will also consider approving \$8 million in funding for MicroTransit operational expenses and to hire 80 new Metro employees to operate MicroTransit vehicles.

MicroTransit will initially operate seven days a week and 12 hours a day, initially. Fare pricing has not yet been determined for MicroTransit. Metro plans to roll out its MicroTransit service starting with the Watts/Willowbrook zone in summer 2020 with service zones being introduced in this order:

- Summer 2020: Watts/Willowbrook
- Fall 2020: Northwest San Fernando Valley
- Winter 2020: LAX/Inglewood
- Spring 2021: Highland Park/Eagle Rock/Glendale
- Summer 2021: Altadena/Pasadena/Sierra Madre
- Fall 2021: UCLA/VA Medical Center/Century City

As part of the approval, the Board also voted to extend the protest period for one week to fulfill a request from one of the firms that bid on the project.

Staff report

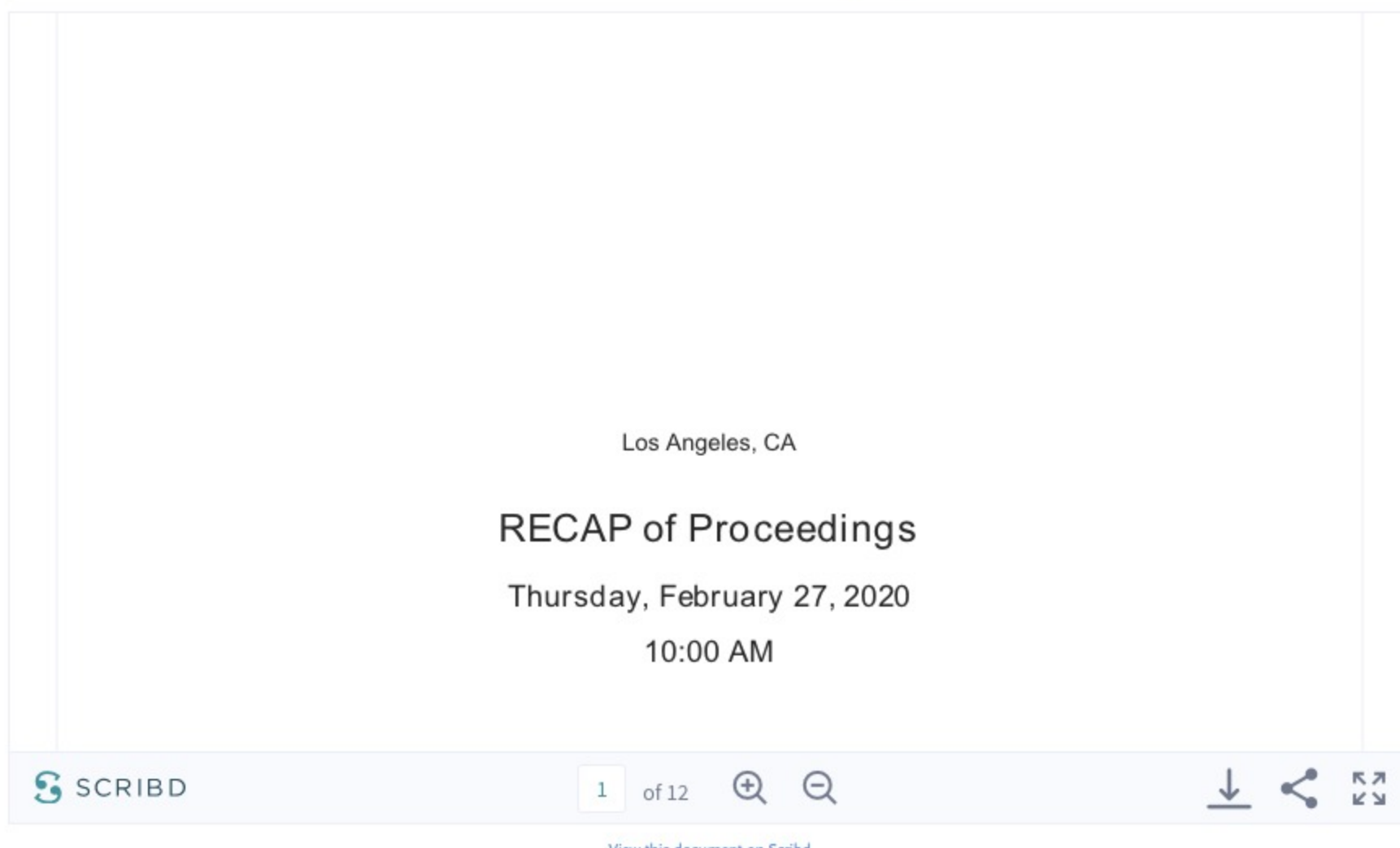
- The Board voted to withdraw the SR 60 and combined alternatives from further consideration as a route for the Eastside Gold Line Extension project and instead focusing on the Washington route to Whittier.

The Board also approved launching a feasibility study to evaluate other options that better serve the mobility needs of the San Gabriel Valley and to proceed only with CEQA for the project’s environmental process to help speed up planning of the project. [Staff report](#) and [Source post](#)

In addition, the Board approved the following motion concerning a transit project for the SR 60 corridor:

- The Board approved a contract not to exceed \$15 million with SECOTrans for the preliminary engineering design of a new bus and rail operations center on Center Street in downtown Los Angeles to accommodate expansion of the Metro system. [Staff report](#)
- The Board approved a \$275,000 contract amendment with TransTech for an update to a tool to inspect overhead wires on Metro light rail lines. The tool will better help measure wear on the wires in order to prevent problems and rail delays. [Staff report](#)
- Item 7, concerning a joint development adjacent to 103rd St/Watts Towers Station, was held over to the March meeting due to absences and conflicts of interest on the Board.

Here’s the official recap, which will also be posted soon [to this page](#).



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1 reply

Dirk

February 28, 2020 at 12:34 pm

Luxembourg becomes first country to offer free public transportation.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/28/luxembourg-public-transport-free-nationwide-congestion>

Unless LA goes this rout, no amount of tinkering will increase much ridership. Plus, I'm tired of paying only to see people cross the turnstiles without paying.

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