# ACTION ITEM: UPDATE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Serge Stanich, Director, Environmental Services April 22, 2021



#### **BOARD ACTION – DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

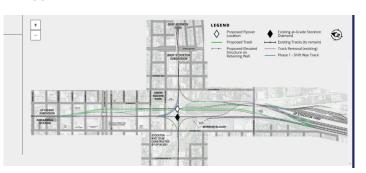
Reasons for Revisions

#### Delegation of Authority last updated in 2019

- » Refers to NEPA Assignment in conditional tense (e.g., *If* the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) approves the State's application)
- » Retains language regarding coordination with the FRA on environmental documents
- » Does not distinguish between responsibilities of the CEO regarding:
  - Less environmentally impactful reviews (i.e., Environental Assessments (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Categorical Exclusion (CE))
  - Environmental reviews for local sponsor projects



**Los Angeles Metro Link US** 



San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission Stockton Diamond Grade Separation



#### **BOARD ACTION – UPDATE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

**Local Sponsor Projects** 

- Local sponsors must seek Authority Board concurrence on preferred alternative
- » Link US taking staff recommended preferred to Metro Board in May/June
- Board must approve a local sponsor project and then direct CEO to sign Record of Decision
  - » Prevents use of combined FEIS/ROD, with potential for delays of 30 days or more Metro schedule assumes combined FEIS/ROD
  - » Requires approval of preferred alternative for less impactful projects Stockton Diamond EA would require Board approval



#### **BOARD ACTION – DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

Proposed Modifications

# Update language to reflect effective date of NEPA Assignment MOU

Eliminate language regarding the coordination of environmental documents with FRA

#### Clarify responsibility of CEO for:

- Environmental Impact Statements retain existing language including Board concurrence
- Environmental Assessments authorize CEO to identify preferred alternative and approve a project through a FONSI or mitigated FONSI without prior Board concurrence
- Categorical Exclusions authorize CEO to approve projects through a CE without prior Board concurrence



#### **BOARD ACTION - DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

**Proposed Modifications** 

### Distinguish Local Sponsor Project EIS from Phase 1 and Phase 2 EIS

 Clarify that for local sponsor projects, "the CEO is not required to seek Board concurrence on a preferred alternative...and the CEO will not seek Board approval to execute a ROD for such projects."

## Distinguish Local Sponsor Project EA and CE from Phase 1 and Phase 2 EA or CE

 Authorize the CEO to make the determination of NEPA compliance and approve local sponsor projects including CE, EA,/FONSI, EIS/ROD



# **QUESTIONS**



