

We're expanding rail with more E Line Stations.

EASTSIDE TRANSIT CORRIDOR PHASE 2

Fact Sheet



Metro

WINTER/EARLY 2025

Overview

Metro has a plan to make it easier to get around, which includes dozens of projects to make transit better and more efficient for you in LA County. Among these is the Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 project (project), an approximately nine-mile extension of the Metro E Line further east from its current terminus at Pomona Bl and Atlantic Bl in East Los Angeles to the City of Whittier.

In May 2024, the Metro Board of Directors approved the certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Board’s approval finalizes the EIR for the two-phased project that will extend the Metro E Line further east from its current terminus at Pomona Bl and Atlantic Bl in East Los Angeles to the Greenwood Station in Montebello via the Initial Operating Segment (IOS), with construction to start in 2029, as programmed under Measure M (2016).

The project area is home to approximately 722,000 residents and is a job center to approximately 274,000 employees. Projections show the resident population increasing by 11% and jobs increasing 25% by 2042. The project is anticipated to serve commuters in an already highly traveled corridor. It will also provide support to the smaller, local municipal bus systems currently serving these communities.

Proposed Project

Metro is committed to building the full project alignment to Whittier, however, funding constraints make it challenging to build out the project all at once. Metro is initiating a process that will allow the project team to seek federal funding opportunities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the IOS to the Greenwood Station.

Once fully built to the Lambert Station, the project will serve the cities of Commerce, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier, and the unincorporated communities of East Los Angeles and West Whittier-Los Nietos.

California Environmental Quality Act

Since 2019, Metro has continued the environmental process under CEQA to update the 2014 Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). In June 2022, Metro released the Draft EIR with a 60-day public review and comment period, held four (4) public hearings and conducted community events. In December 2022, the Metro Board of Directors selected the Lambert Station in the City of Whittier as the eastern terminus, as well as Alternative 3: Initial Operating Segment (IOS) to the Greenwood Station with a Maintenance and Storage Facility (MSF) in the City of Montebello as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). In all, over 900 comments were received. Responses to all submitted comments were included as part of the Final EIR that was released in April 2024. In May 2024, Metro concluded the CEQA review process with the Metro Board of Directors’ approval of the EIR and the State of California issuing a Notice of Determination (NOD).

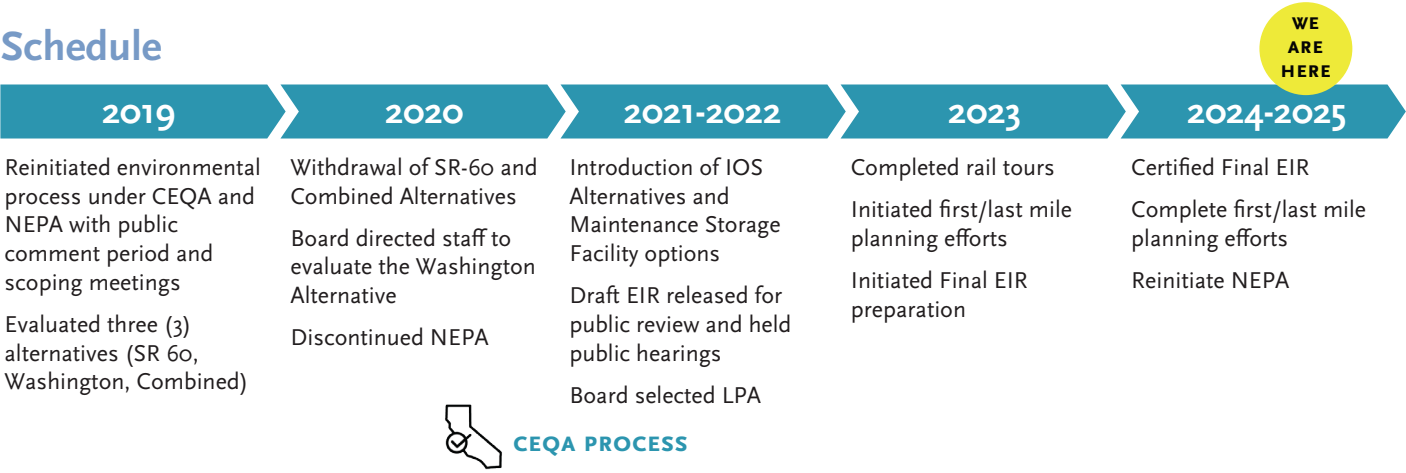
National Environmental Policy Act

In February 2022, the Metro Board directed staff to reinitiate the NEPA process for federal environmental clearance which will enable Metro to seek federal funding opportunities for the project. In fall of 2024, Metro began coordination with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to reinitiate the NEPA process for federal environmental clearance to enable the project to seek federal funding opportunities. The NEPA process will examine the project IOS to the Greenwood Station and will include public outreach to receive stakeholder input on NEPA-specific anticipated project impacts. Community update meetings are anticipated to be held in early 2025 and Spring/Summer 2025.

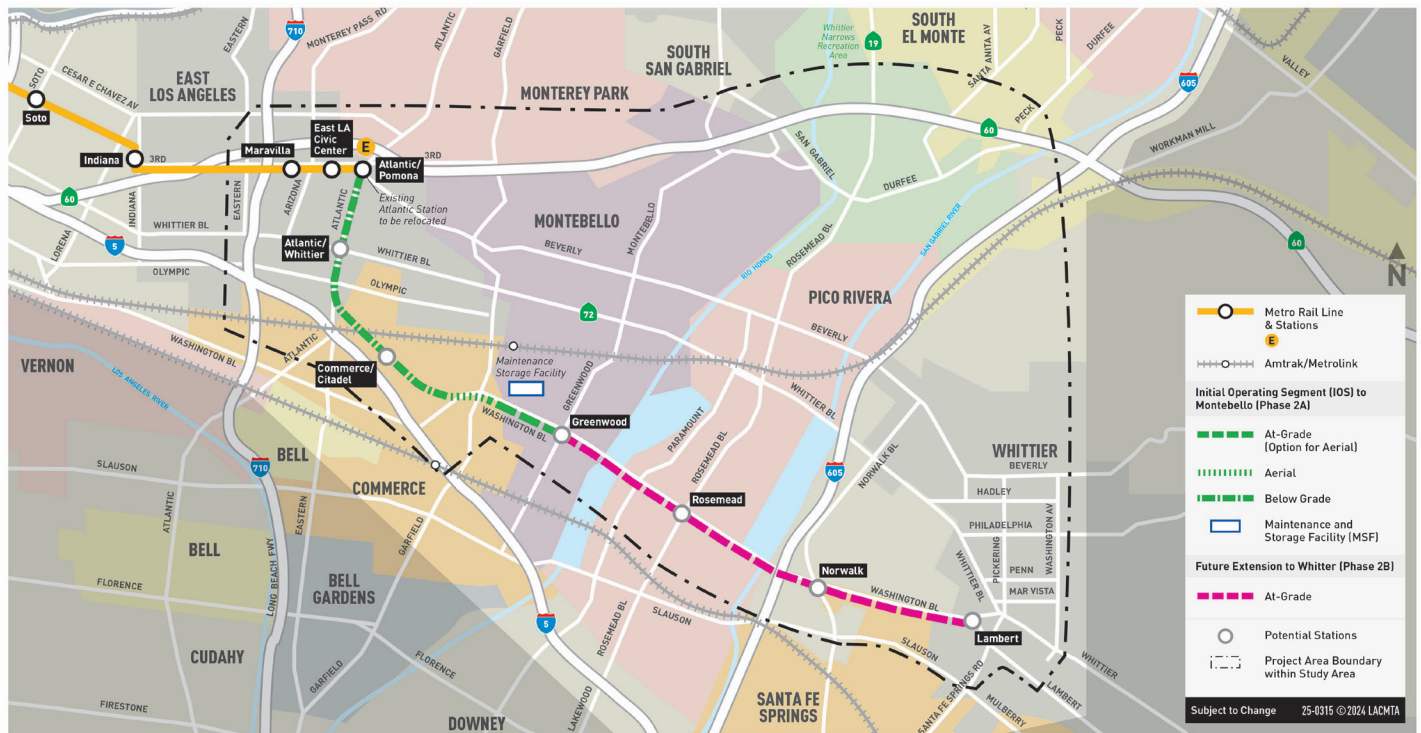
Project History and Milestones

In the “Schedule” below are the project milestones, starting with the reinitiated environmental process, which began in 2019. For a full project history, visit the interactive tool at metro.net/eastsidephase2.

Schedule



EASTSIDE TRANSIT CORRIDOR PHASE 2 PROJECT STUDY AREA



Locally Preferred Alternative

In December 2022, the Metro Board identified the LPA to be further analyzed in the Final EIR. The LPA would allow the segment from East Los Angeles to Montebello to be built first. The segment east of Montebello would be built later when funding is identified and secured. The LPA would terminate at the Greenwood Station and include approximately three (3) miles of light rail transit (LRT) underground, 0.5 miles aerial and 1.1 miles at street level for a total of 4.7 miles, extending from the current terminus at Atlantic Bl with a relocated/reconfigured Atlantic Station and would feature:

- > An open underground station at Atlantic/Pomona
- > Three (3) new stations: Atlantic/Whittier (underground), Commerce/Citadel (underground) and Greenwood (street level)
- > A street level Maintenance and Storage Facility (MSF) located in the City of Montebello

The MSF site in the City of Montebello avoids significant and unavoidable impacts and meets the project and regional operational needs. The site is located north of Washington Bl and south of Flotilla St between Yates Av and S Vail Av with approximately 30 acres and accommodate approximately 120 Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs).

First/Last Mile Planning

Metro is focused on improving the entire transit experience from door to door. Given that most trips begin or end on foot, it is critical to have safe and accessible streets and sidewalks that allow people to connect to transit easily. The first and last part of the journey where riders walk, bike or roll to or from their nearest transit station or bus stop is called the “first/last mile connection.” In 2016, the Metro Board passed a groundbreaking motion to integrate first/last mile (FLM) improvements as part of all new rail and bus rapid transit projects.

Metro initiated FLM planning efforts in 2023 and conducted walk and wheel audits with the community and technical team. Metro also launched a virtual community survey. In October 2024, the FLM Pathway Maps and Project Lists were approved by the Metro Board of Directors.

Pre-Construction and Utilities Coordination

To facilitate future construction, the project team will continue coordinating potholing, soil sampling, utilities and other underground activities throughout the project corridor. The project website will be updated 72 hours prior to any activity and email notifications will be disseminated to individuals who sign up to receive project updates on the website.

Project Funding

Thanks to voter support of Measure M in November 2016, Measure M allocates \$3 billion (2015\$) for Alternative 1: Washington, which has been programmed in 2029.

The project is also identified as a high priority project for the Metro Board, with the goal of securing funding prior to the anticipated 2029 funding cycle. Metro is proactively seeking federal and state funding through numerous grants and programs.

Next Steps

Metro will be initiating the NEPA process to allow the project to seek federal funding opportunities for the IOS to the Greenwood Station. The project will engage with corridor communities to promote NEPA public meetings, including community update meetings that are anticipated to be held starting in early 2025. The project team will continue coordination with corridor cities, property owners, third-party utility owners and other key local, state and federal agency stakeholders during the NEPA process.

Equity

Metro is committed to equity, transparency and maximizing public participation, and will provide information to allow corridor stakeholders to be educated, informed and provide valuable input at key milestones.

Metro is interested in genuinely engaging impacted communities during this environmental process. This includes historically underrepresented populations, those with limited-income, limited English proficiency and persons living with disabilities. Metro will continue its partnership with community-based organizations to ensure it reaches all of the segments of our communities.

All project information materials are provided in English and Spanish. Please be sure to visit the project website to sign up to receive project updates, including details for other engagement opportunities.

CONTACT US

Please use the following contact tools to access more project information, sign-up for updates and ask a question or provide comments:



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metro.net/eastsidephase2

