

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (METRO)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FOR THE
REGIONAL CONNECTOR TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT/RECIRCULATED SECTIONS OF THE DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15087, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) for the Regional Connector Transit Corridor project. The Draft EIS/EIR was made available to identified stakeholders, agencies, and the general public for review and comment for a 45-day review period from September 3, 2010 through October 18, 2010. It included five alternatives: No Build, Transportation Systems Management (TSM), and three alternatives utilizing Light Rail Transit (LRT) technology: Fully Underground, Underground Emphasis and At-Grade Emphasis. In addition, Metro held two public hearings (September 28 and October 4, 2010) to provide information about the Draft EIS/EIR, facilitate the submission of comments, and receive oral comments. On October 28, 2010, the Metro Board of Directors voted to designate the Fully Underground LRT Alternative without the Flower/5th/4th Street station as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

Refinements, including the approach in and out of the underground station at First Street and Central Avenue on the eastern end of the alignment, have since been made to the LPA in response to comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR, in an effort to minimize environmental impacts, and to improve project design. Pursuant to NEPA (23 CFR 771.130 (c)), Section 21029.1 of the Public Resources Code, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5, this Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Recirculated Sections of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Supplemental EA/Recirculated Draft EIR Sections) presents information on the refinements to the LPA, which are discussed in detail in updated Chapter 2, Alternatives Considered and the updated portion of Section 4.18, Construction Impacts, and analysis of the refinements as they pertain to property acquisition, noise, vibration, and historical resource impacts. In addition, Chapter 10 has been added to address issues raised as a result of the ruling in the case *Sunnyvale West Neighborhood Assn, et al v. City of Sunnyvale*. All identified potentially significant impacts of the LPA as refined can be mitigated to less than

significant. With mitigation, no new significant impacts or substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact would occur in the other Draft EIS/EIR sections as a result of the refinements to the LPA.

This Notice of Availability serves as a notice to the public regarding the availability of the Supplemental EA/Recirculated Draft EIR Sections and seeks public opinion and comment on the refinements to the LPA and the analysis presented in the Supplemental EA/Recirculated Draft EIR Sections. FTA is the lead agency for the purposes of NEPA, and Metro is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA.

Project Description and Location

The Regional Connector project would implement a light rail connector in downtown Los Angeles that would directly link the tracks of the Metro Gold Line light rail system with the Metro Blue Line and future Metro Expo Line. The project would run from the current Metro Blue Line terminus at 7th Street/Metro Center Station to a point on the Metro Gold Line near the Little Tokyo/Arts District Station. The Regional Connector Transit Corridor project area is in downtown Los Angeles and encompasses approximately two square miles. The entire project area is within the City of Los Angeles. The boundaries of the project area generally extend north to the US 101 freeway, east to the Los Angeles River, south to 9th Street, and west to the SR 110 freeway.

Significant Environmental Effects

The Draft EIS/EIR circulated for public review in September 2010 addressed the existing conditions and environmental setting in the project area. Potentially significant and unavoidable impacts could occur with each of the three LRT alternatives. Under CEQA, the LRT alternatives would have significant and unavoidable impacts in five areas. These are transportation, air quality, paleontological, construction and cumulative. Where appropriate, mitigation measures were identified to reduce potentially adverse environmental impacts that may result from the alternatives being considered. All identified potentially significant impacts of the LPA as refined can be mitigated to less than significant. No new significant impacts or substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact would occur in the other Draft EIS/EIR sections as a result of the refinements to the LPA. Therefore, the conclusions of the Draft EIS/EIR have not changed.

Public Review and Comment Period

Metro requests that commenters limit comments to only the revised chapters and sections, and new chapter provided in this document. Comments received on the original Draft EIS/EIR during the previous comment period will be responded to in the Final EIS/EIR and need not be resubmitted on the revised chapter and sections. Metro intends to only respond

to comments submitted during the recirculation period that relate to the revised chapters or sections included in the Supplemental EA/Recirculated Draft EIR Sections as allowed under CEQA Section 15088.5(f)(2).

The public review and comment period for the Supplemental EA/Recirculated Draft EIR Sections shall begin on Friday, July 22, 2011 and last for 45 days, ending on Tuesday, September 6, 2011. Please provide written comments to Ms. Dolores Roybal Saltarelli of Metro, and Mr. Ray Tellis of the FTA. Metro will respond to these comments in the Final EIS/EIR. All public comments must be received by 5:00 PM on Tuesday September 6, 2011 to ensure incorporation into the Final EIS/EIR.

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Ways to Obtain the Supplemental EA/Recirculated Draft EIR Sections

The Supplemental EA/Recirculated Draft EIR Sections will be distributed on Metro's website at www.metro.net/projects/connector. CDs and paper copies of the Draft EIS/EIR may be requested from Ms. Dolores Roybal Saltarelli at the address shown above. Paper copies of the Supplemental EA/Recirculated Draft EIR Sections will also be available for public viewing at the following depositories:

Central Library
Los Angeles Public Library
530 W. 6th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Little Tokyo Branch Library
Los Angeles Public Library
203 S. Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Chinatown Branch Library
Los Angeles Public Library
639 N. Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Von KleinSmid Center (VKC)
University of Southern California
University Park Campus
Los Angeles, CA 90089

Pasadena Central Library
City of Pasadena
285 E. Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91101

East Los Angeles Library
County of Los Angeles Public Library
4837 E. 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Culver City Julian Dixon Library
4975 Overland Avenue
Culver City, CA 90230

Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Main Library
Long Beach Public Library
101 Pacific Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90822

The Regional Connector Transit Corridor project is not located on any sites enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.