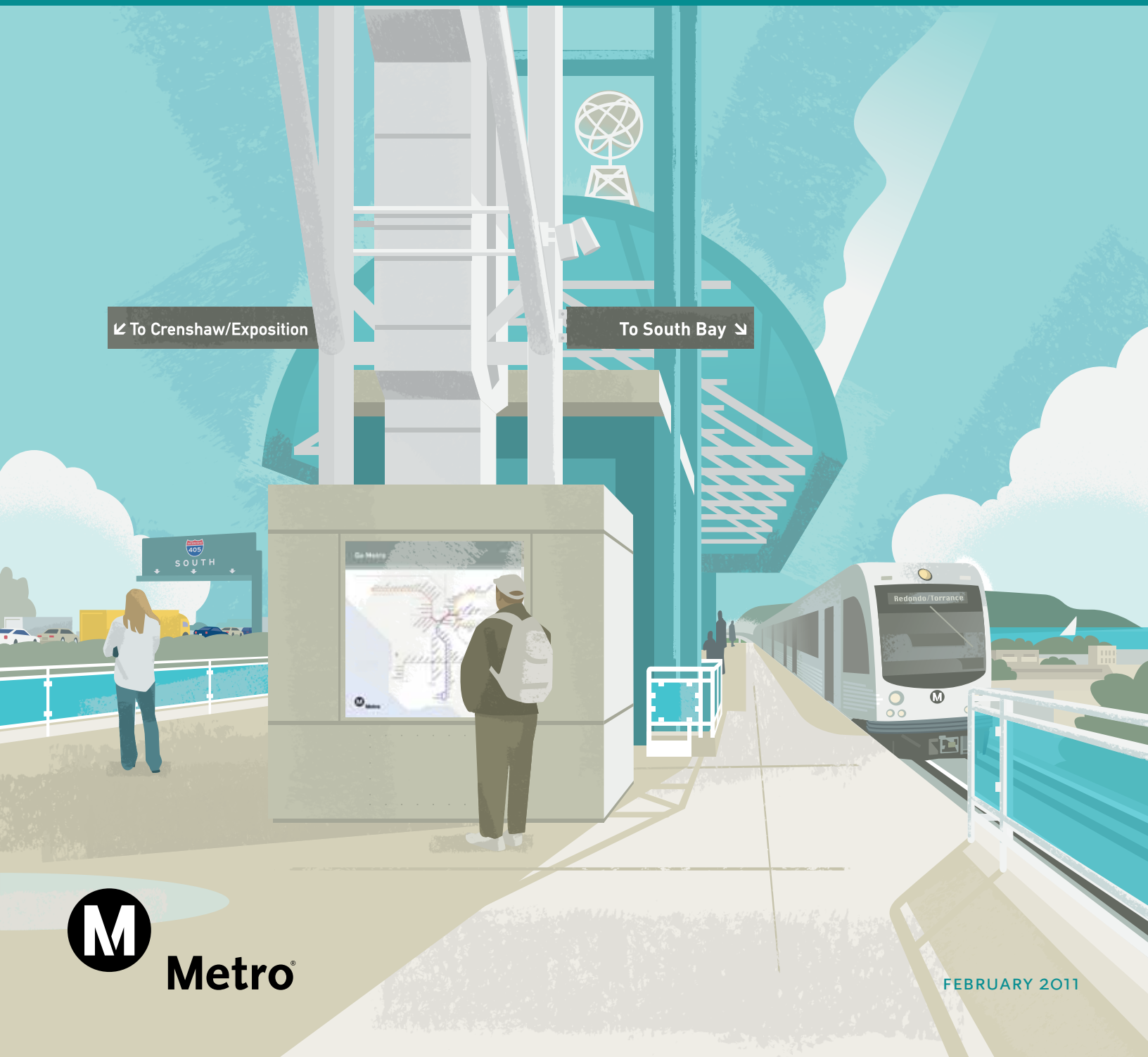


South Bay Metro Green Line Extension

Environmental Fact Sheet



Background

Prior to initiating the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/EIR), the South Bay Metro Green Line Extension was carefully evaluated as part of an Alternatives Analysis (AA) study conducted for the Metro-owned railroad right-of-way (ROW) known as the Harbor Subdivision. The Harbor Subdivision AA Study evaluated more than 20 transit alternatives that could utilize the railroad ROW, and the South Bay Metro Green Line Extension emerged as the highest priority project. In 2009, the Metro Board of Directors approved this project to be carried forward into the Draft EIS/EIR phase.

During the draft environmental review phase, the following three alternatives will be studied:

- > **Light Rail Alternative** – An extension of the Metro Green Line from its current terminus at the Redondo Beach Station to the proposed Torrance Regional Transit Center (RTC).
- > **No Build Alternative** – Transportation network without the proposed project.
- > **Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Alternative** – Lower cost capital and operational improvements such as improved signal synchronization designed to improve bus speed.

NEPA and CEQA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are laws that require government agencies to identify significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects if reasonable and cost effective. An EIS/EIR for NEPA and CEQA is required for any action that is taken by the government or receives federal and/or state funding. This project requires approvals from both NEPA and CEQA, and therefore a joint EIS/EIR will be prepared.

The Draft EIS/EIR for the South Bay Metro Green Line Extension will consider the proposed project's environmental impacts on a wide range of topics such as air quality, cultural and historic resources, community effects, noise, visual impacts, soil, water, biological resources and others.

During the Draft EIS/EIR phase, Metro will:

- > Study the potential effects of the project both during construction and once it is operating.
- > Evaluate measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts if reasonable and cost effective.
- > Refine the alternatives (including alignments and station locations), considering factors such as the cost effectiveness of the alternatives and funding options for construction.



Summary of Environmental Process

There are several steps in the Draft EIS/EIR process that provide agencies, project stakeholders and the general public opportunities to review the project and provide comments.

1. Notice of Intent (NOI)/Notice of Preparation (NOP)

April 2010

WHAT METRO DOES

- > Partners with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the State on the NEPA/CEQA process.
- > Coordinates with FTA to develop the NOI for publication in the Federal Register and the NOP for distribution to State agencies to meet the requirements of NEPA and CEQA.

YOUR ROLE (PUBLIC ACTION)

- > The NOI/NOP announces the start of the environmental process and upcoming scoping meetings, and does not require public action.

2. Public Scoping

April-May 2010

WHAT METRO DOES

- > Conducts public scoping meetings in April and May 2010.
- > Invites the public to comment on the scope of the environmental analysis either in person, by email or by letter.
- > Publicizes these meetings via mail, email, notices posted on Metro transit service, newspaper advertisements, social networking websites, neighborhood canvassing, and elected officials offices.
- > Records and includes all comments in the project's Scoping Report.

YOUR ROLE (PUBLIC ACTION)

- > Review and comment on the scope of the environmental analysis.
- > Provide comments about what Metro should study in the Draft EIS/EIR (e.g. project purpose and need, alternatives, potential impacts, and mitigations for analysis in the Draft EIS/EIR).

The Public Scoping period closed on May 28, 2010. Public input is encouraged throughout the Draft EIS/EIR process. Metro is committed to an ongoing, transparent community outreach process including community update meetings at important project milestones and ongoing outreach to key stakeholder groups in the project area.

3. Prepare Draft EIS/EIR

WHAT METRO DOES

- > Analyzes project impacts and develops project design and mitigations through ongoing consultation with the community.
- > Continues to provide updated information as results become available.
- > Continues to meet with organizations and project stakeholders as the project moves forward.

YOUR ROLE (PUBLIC ACTION)

- > Attend public meetings.
- > Attend and participate in stakeholder briefings in your community.
- > Talk about what you think the project impacts might be and how they might be mitigated.

4. Public Review & Comment on Draft EIS/EIR

WHAT METRO DOES

- > Circulates Draft EIS/EIR in coordination with FTA.
- > Prepares the Notice of Availability (NOA) for FTA to publish in the Federal Register at the completion of the Draft EIS/EIR. The NOA announces that the environmental document will be circulated by Metro for public review.
- > Hosts formal public hearings so that the public may comment on the Draft EIS/EIR.

YOUR ROLE (PUBLIC ACTION)

- > Review Draft EIS/EIR and consider impacts, mitigations or other relevant issues.
- > Attend public hearings to again provide formal comment about the project as part of the environmental process.
- > Comment on the project design and adequacy of mitigation measures.

5. Board Reviews Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)

WHAT METRO DOES

- > Presents findings of the Draft EIS/EIR to the Metro Board of Directors, including recommendation of a LPA. The Board will consider the LPA and further direct staff.

YOUR ROLE (PUBLIC ACTION)

- > Provide comments to the Metro Board on the staff-recommended LPA.
- > Attend the Metro Board of Directors meeting. At this time, you will have an opportunity to speak to the Metro Board about the project.

To South Bay ↘

Contact Us

Please use the following contact tools to access more project information, ask a question or provide comments:

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FACEBOOK:

Click “Like” to become a fan at facebook.com/southbayextension or search for us by typing “South Bay Metro Green Line Extension”.

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