



We're creating more rail service
between LA and Antelope Valley.



ANTELOPE VALLEY LINE CAPACITY AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Public Hearing – August 2021

Accessing Spanish and Armenian Interpretation

Armenian and Spanish Interpretation

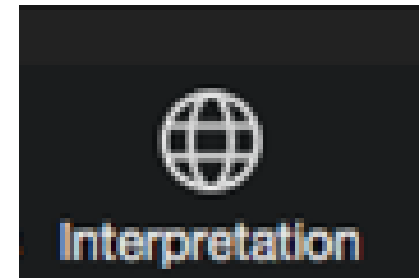
> Via Zoom

- Click on the "Interpretation" icon
- Pick the language you would like to listen to (Spanish or Armenian)
- Spanish and Armenian translated presentations have been posted in the chat

Interpretación en español

> Vía Zoom

- Haga clic en el icono – "Interpretación"
- Escoja la opción para escuchar en español
- El enlace a la presentación en español está disponible en el "chat"



Հայերեն բանավոր թարգմանություն

> Zoom-ի միջոցով

- Սեղմեք «Բանավոր թարգմանություն» կոճակը
- Ընտրեք հայերեն լսելու տարբերակը
- Այս զրուցարանում կարող եք գտնել հայերեն լեզվով արեգենտացիան

Housekeeping

Today's meeting is being recorded.



Attendee cameras are off and microphones are muted.



Questions can be submitted using the Q&A function



Oral public comments to follow the presentation. Please use the 'Raise Hand' icon.



For technical support, call 909.310.2788

Today's Presenters



Brian Balderrama

Deputy Executive Officer
Metro Regional Rail



Eric Banghart

Principal Project Manager
Mott MacDonald



Peter Feldman

Senior Environmental Planner
Terry A. Hayes Associates



Danielle Valentino

Community Relations Manager
Metro Community Relations

Purpose of the Meeting

- > Overview of the Antelope Valley Line Capacity and Service Improvements Program
- > Explain the Environmental Process and Findings of the Environmental Study
- > Receive Public Comments

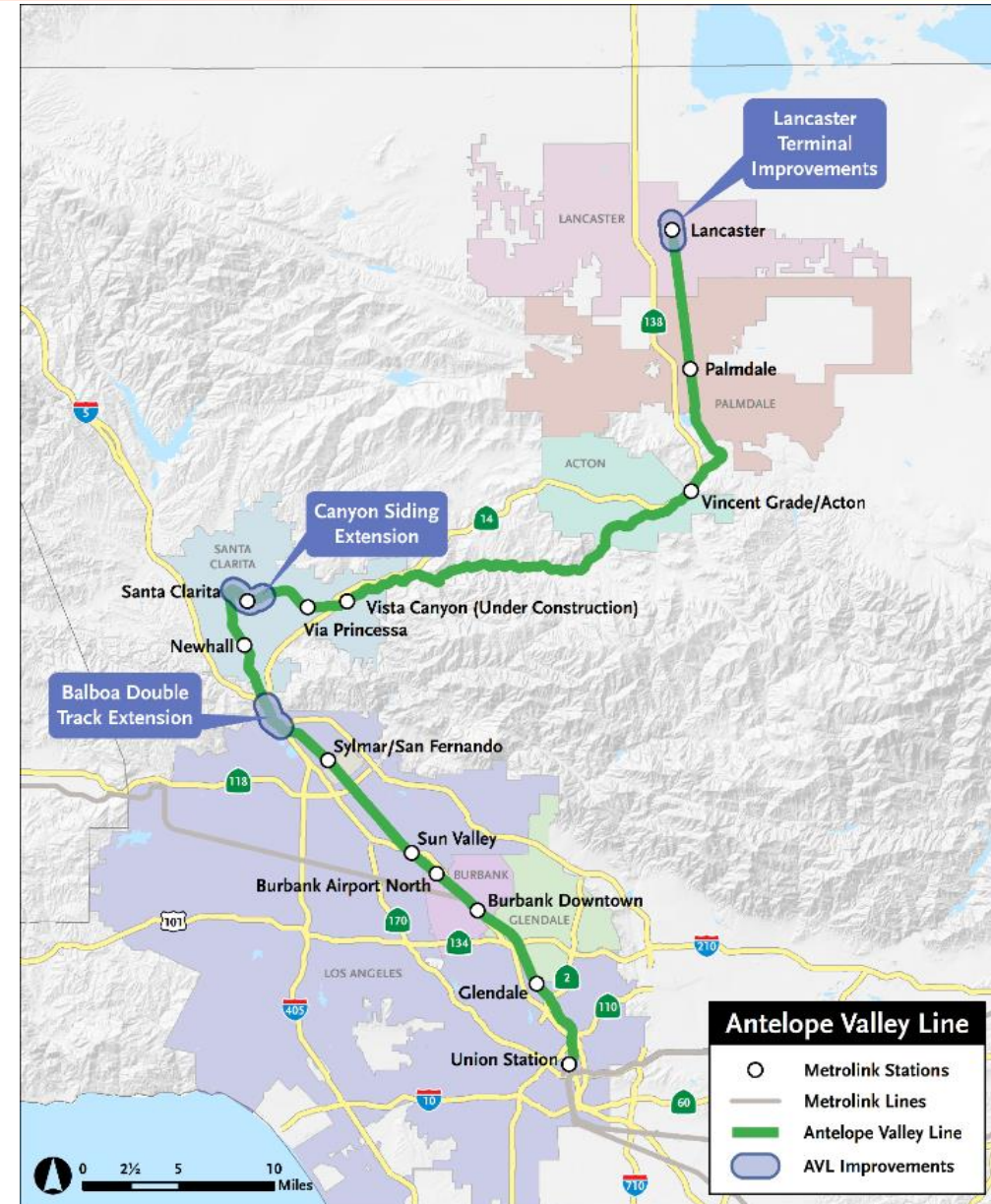
Meeting Agenda

- > Project Overview
 - Service Improvements
 - Environmental Setting
 - Stakeholder Involvement
 - Project Benefits
 - Funding
 - Proposed Project Elements
 - Timeline
- > Project Impacts Identified in Environmental Study
 - Aesthetics
 - Biological and Water Resources
 - Cultural, Tribal Cultural and Paleontological Resources
 - Hazards, Hazardous Materials, Geology and Soils
 - Noise & Vibration
 - Transportation and Air Quality
- > Public Comment Session

Project Overview

Enable 30-minute bi-directional passenger rail service between LAUS and Santa Clarita Valley and 60-minute bi-directional service between LAUS and Lancaster Station including the infrastructure improvements required to provide the increased passenger rail service are:

- > **Balboa Double Track Extension**
- > **Canyon Siding Extension**
- > **Lancaster Terminal improvements**
- > **Brighton-McGinley Double Track Extension – cleared by separate environmental process**



Environmental Setting

The AVL Project is statutorily exempt from CEQA under Section 21080 (b)(10) of the California Public Resources Code as provided below:

- a) *A project for the institution or increase of passenger or commuter services on rail or highway rights-of-way **already in use**, including the modernization of existing stations and parking facilities.*

However, to address community concerns regarding environmental impacts (i.e. noise and traffic) along the AVL:

Metro with the support of the NCTC has elected to prepare an EIR study to comprehensively address the community/stakeholder concerns related to doubling the number of trains in the AVL.

In addition, this EIR study considers the cumulative impacts of other capital projects having connectivity to the AVL:

*Such as: **LINK US, East San Fernando Valley Corridor, California High Speed Rail Authority Phase 1, Metrolink SCORE Program Phase 1B, etc.***

Stakeholder Involvement

Over the project development period, highlights of stakeholders that have been particularly engaged include*:

- > North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition JPA
- > Office of LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger (District 5)
- > Offices of LA City Mayor Eric Garcetti and LA City Council President Nury Martinez (District 6)
- > Cities of Santa Clarita, Lancaster, Palmdale, Burbank, Glendale and Acton Town Council
- > SCRRA/Metrolink, California High Speed Rail Authority and UPRR
- > LA County Public Works, CPUC, Caltrans District 7
- > California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- > Save Our Rural Town, Go Glendale, BTMO, AV EDGE
- > Southern California Transit Advocates and Regenerative Community
- > Rail PAC, Santa Clarita Valley Bicycle Coalition, Golden State Gateway Coalition
- > Local businesses, residents and tribes

Project Benefits

- > Improve ability of Antelope Valley Line to meet strong population and employment growth forecast over the next 20 years
- > Improve passenger service reliability and efficiency on the AVL rail corridor
- > Provide necessary supporting infrastructure improvements to enhance operational flexibility and reliability along the AVL corridor.



Funding

Program is funded:

1. **October 2019 - North Los Angeles County Transportation Coalition Board committed** up to \$113.8M with their Measure M sub-regional funds to kick start the program.

TIRCP GRANT REQUEST	LOCAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
\$107.05 MILLION	\$113.80 MILLION	\$220.85 MILLION

2. **April 2020 - CalSTA awarded** \$107.05M in TIRCP grant funds



Metro is partnering with Metrolink in this request for funds to deliver faster and more frequent commuter rail service from Los Angeles to Lancaster, while reducing particulates and greenhouse gas emissions.

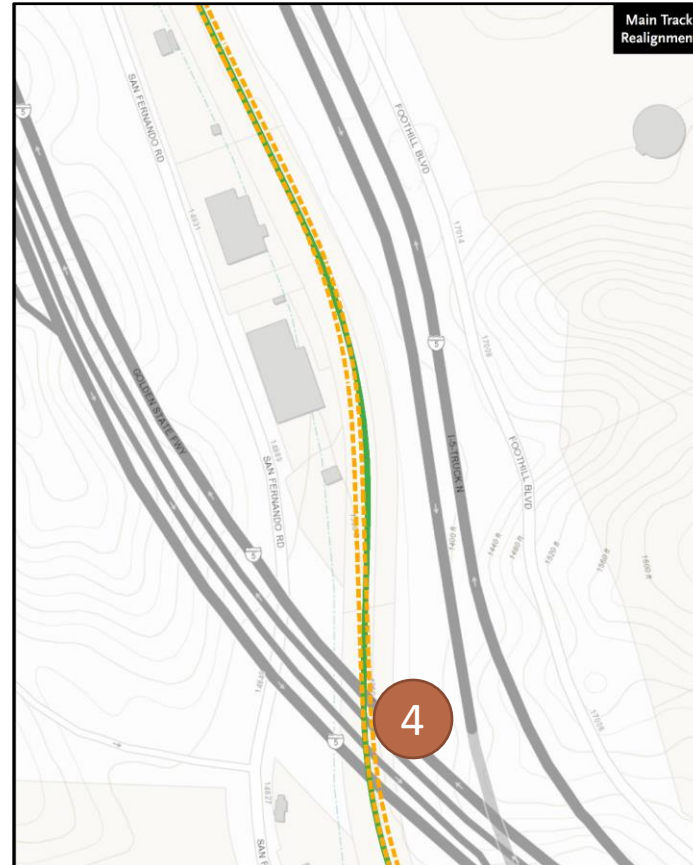
Proposed Project Elements

- > Balboa Double Track Extension
- > Canyon Siding Extension
- > Lancaster Terminal Improvements

Proposed Project Elements – Balboa Double Track Extension

Description of scope of work:

- > Extend existing double railroad track approximately 6,300 feet north to Sierra Highway.
- > Existing railroad right of way (ROW) would accommodate most of the extension.
- > Caltrans encroachment may be required just south of Sierra Highway to re-align an existing spur track.
- > Bridge column protection is required for existing I-5 columns.



Proposed Project Elements – Canyon Siding Extension

Description of Scope of Work

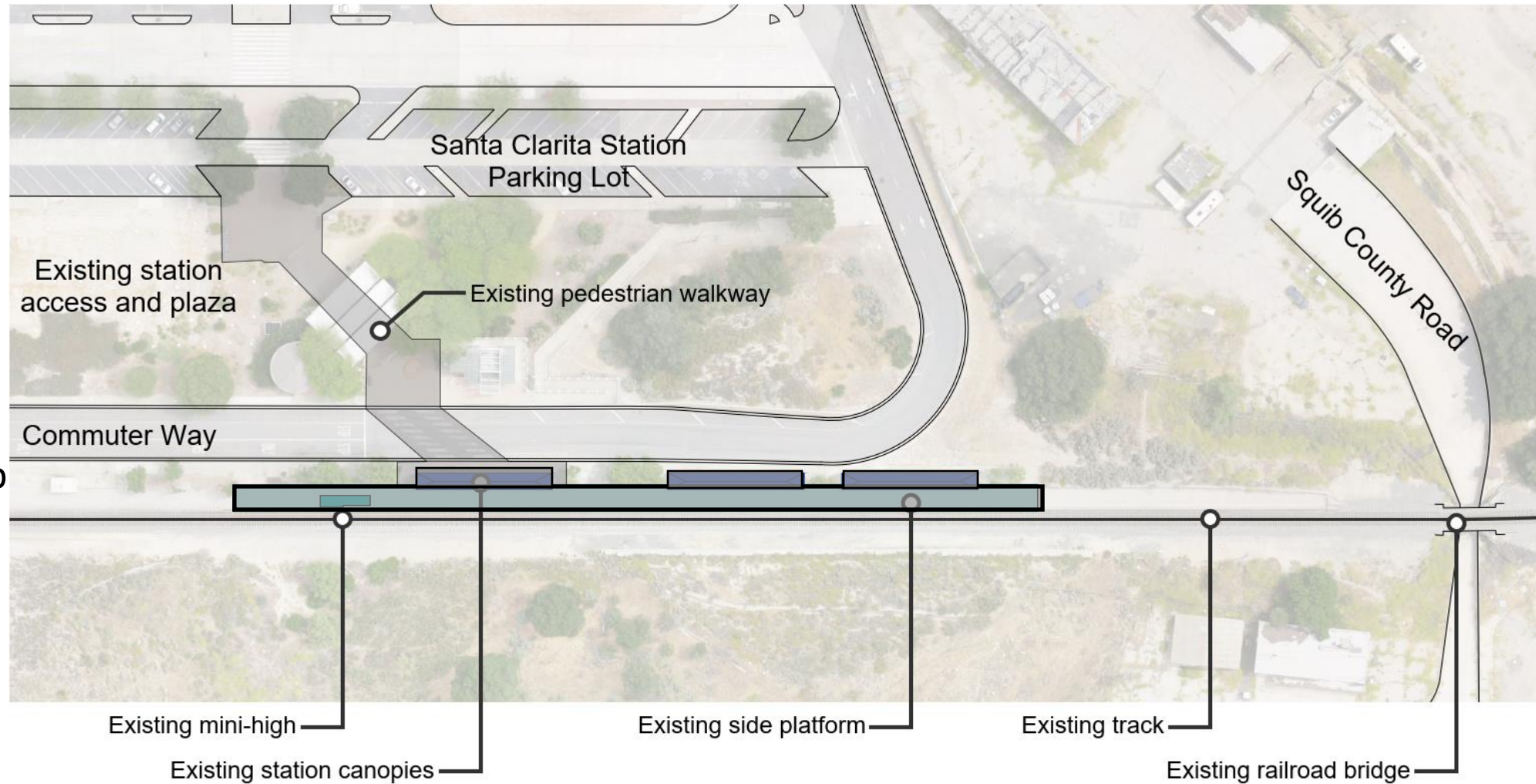
- > Extend existing Saugus Siding approximately 8,400 feet to 500 feet east of Golden Oak Road.
- > Existing railroad right of way (ROW) would accommodate additional track throughout the extension.
- > Convert existing CP turnout to a crossover track to improve operational flexibility.
- > Golden Oak Road would require installation of new road traffic signals, new striping throughout the intersection, curb adjustments to provide pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, installation of new crossing gates, and high visibility crosswalk markings.



Proposed Project Elements – Canyon Siding Extension Design Options

Existing Condition

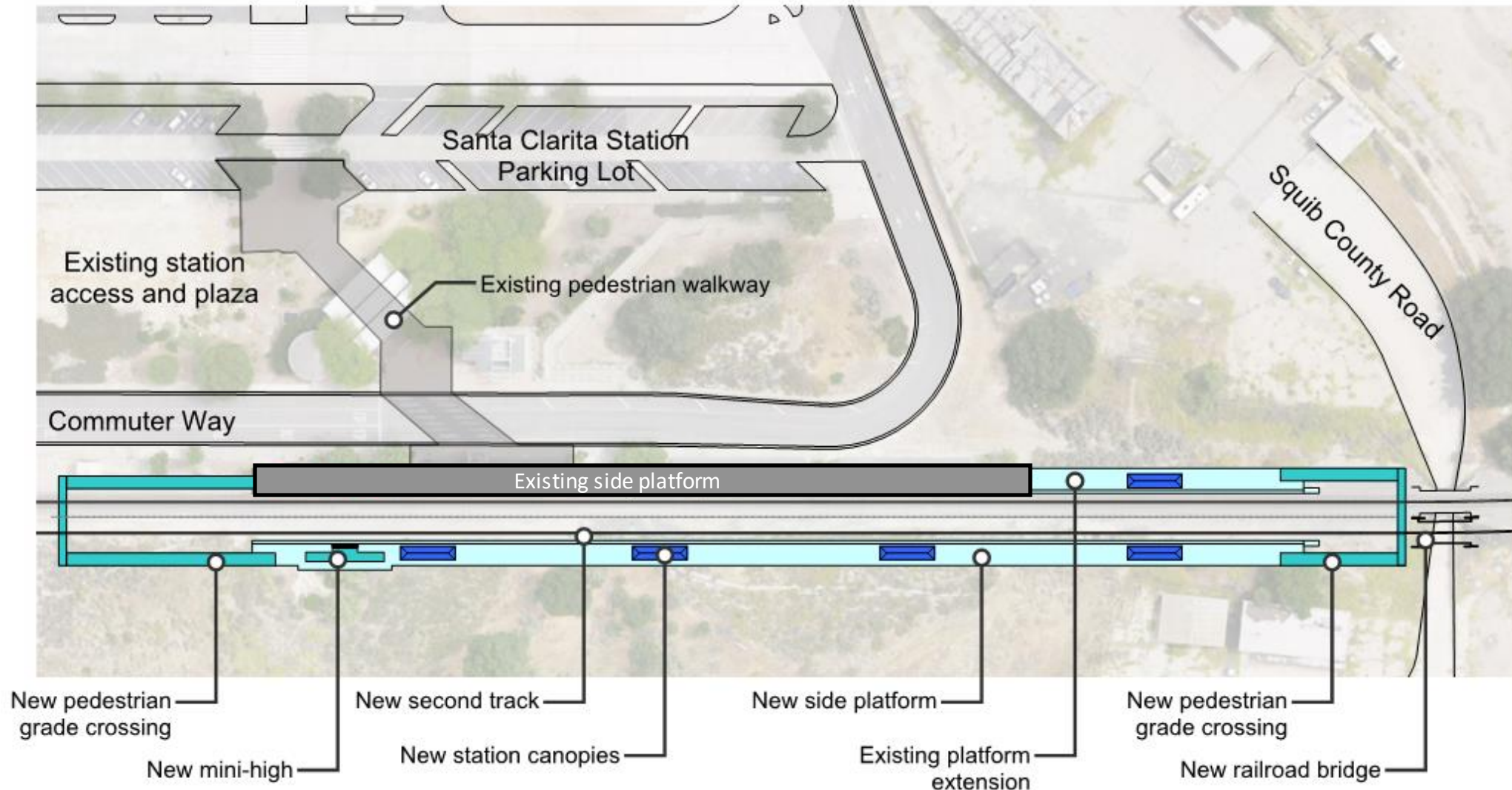
- > 1 x 500' long side platform and one railroad track.
- > Lower-level parking lot, bus stop and ticketing.
- > Upper-level ADA parking stalls, bus stop and car/taxi drop off.



Proposed Project Elements – Canyon Siding Extension Design Options

Base Design

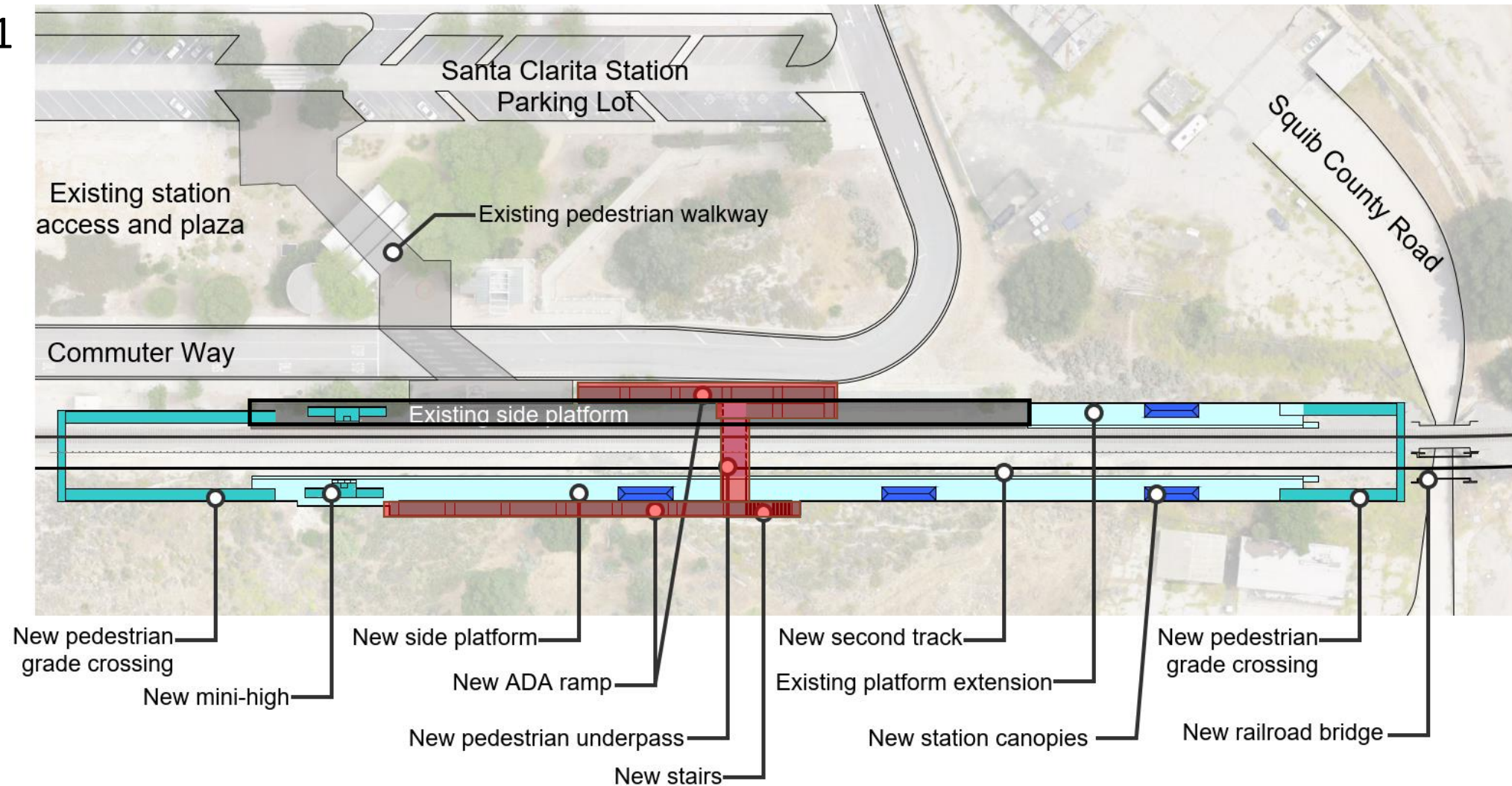
- > Add second side platform.
- > Extend existing platform.
- > Add at-grade pedestrian crossings.



Proposed Project Elements – Canyon Siding Extension Design Options

Design Option #1

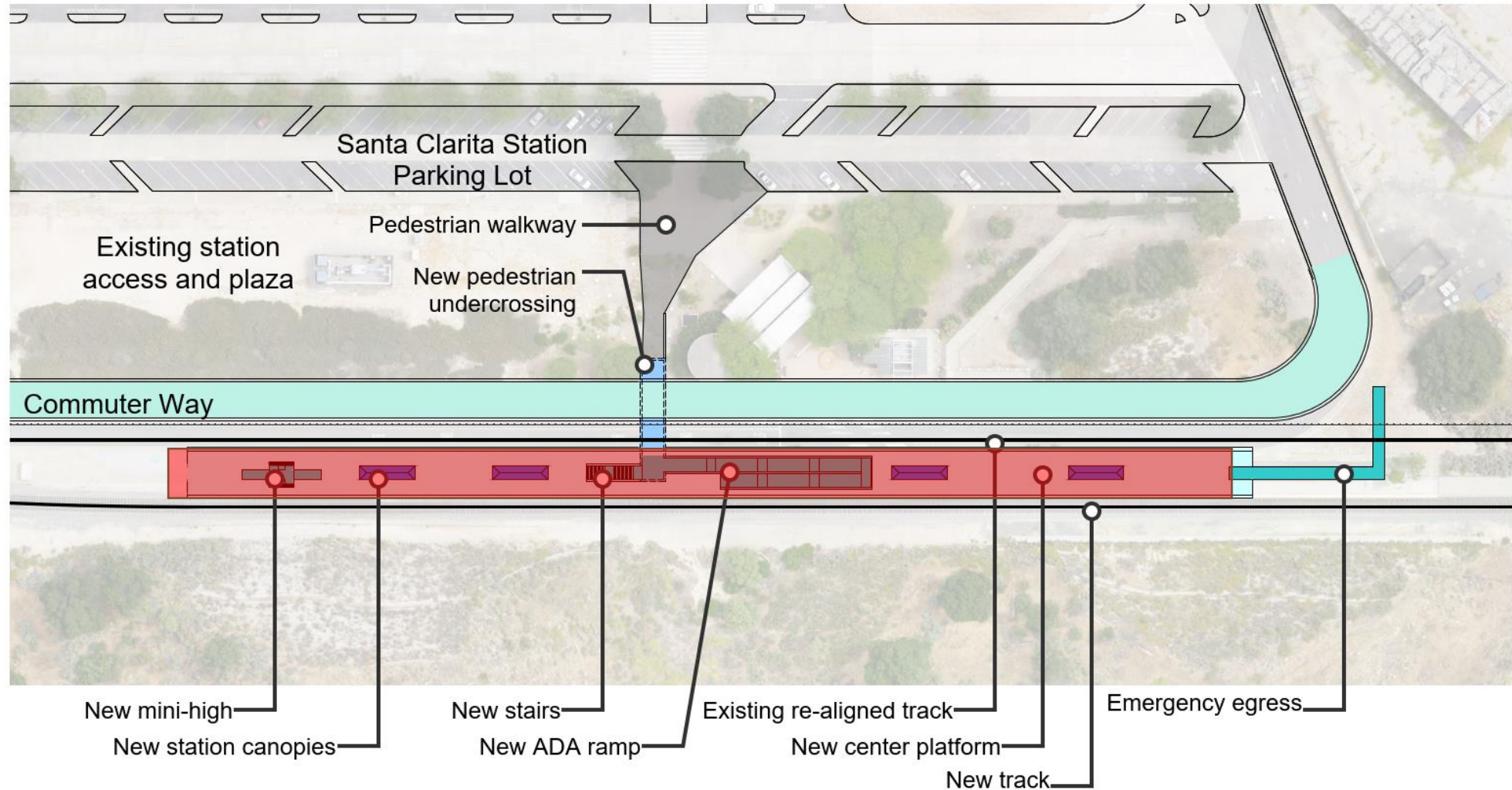
- > Add second side platform.
- > New pedestrian underpass.



Proposed Project Elements – Canyon Siding Extension Design Options

Design Option #2

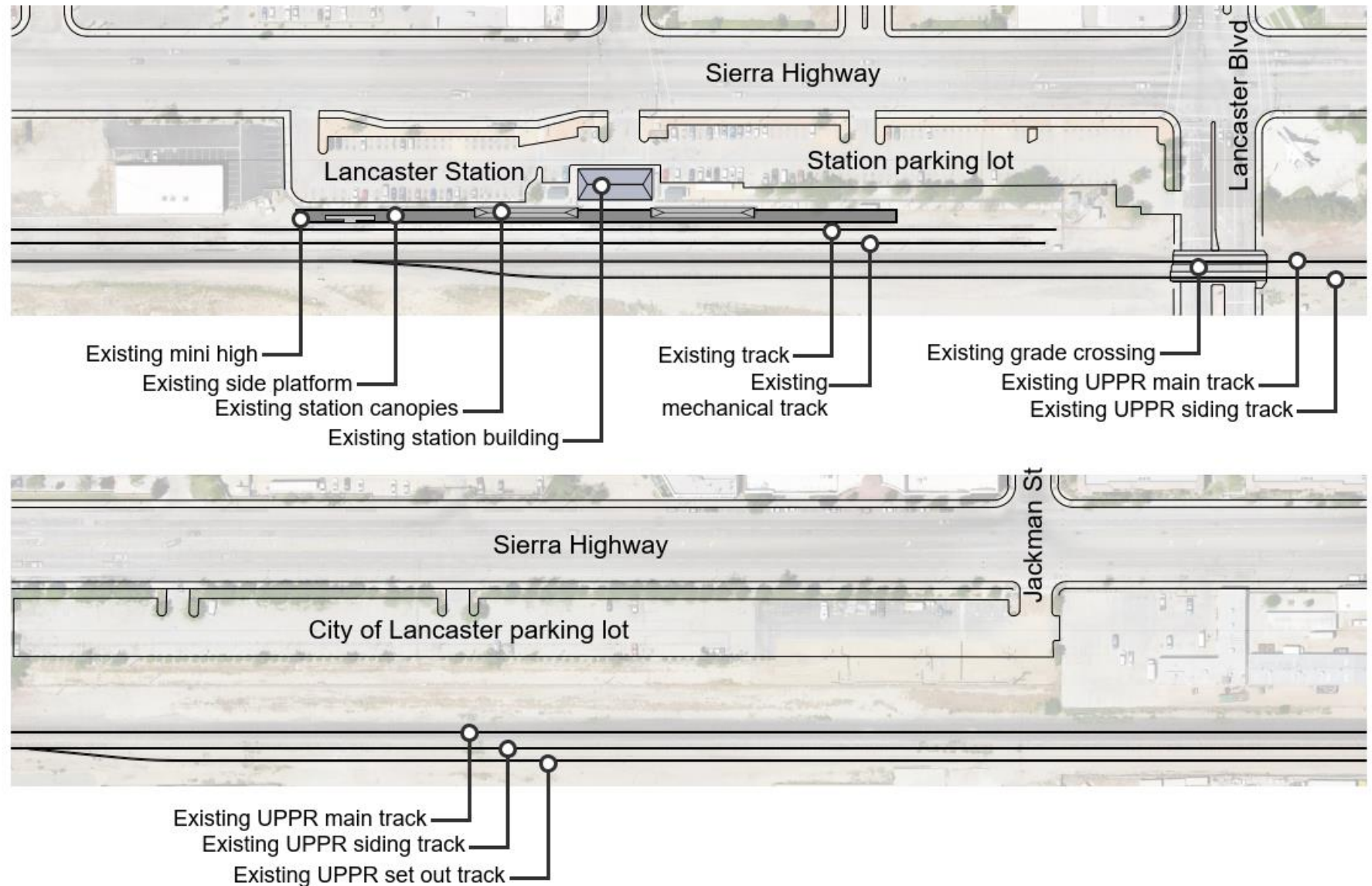
- > Replace existing platform with island platform.
- > New pedestrian underpass.



Proposed Project Elements – Lancaster Terminal Improvements

Existing Conditions

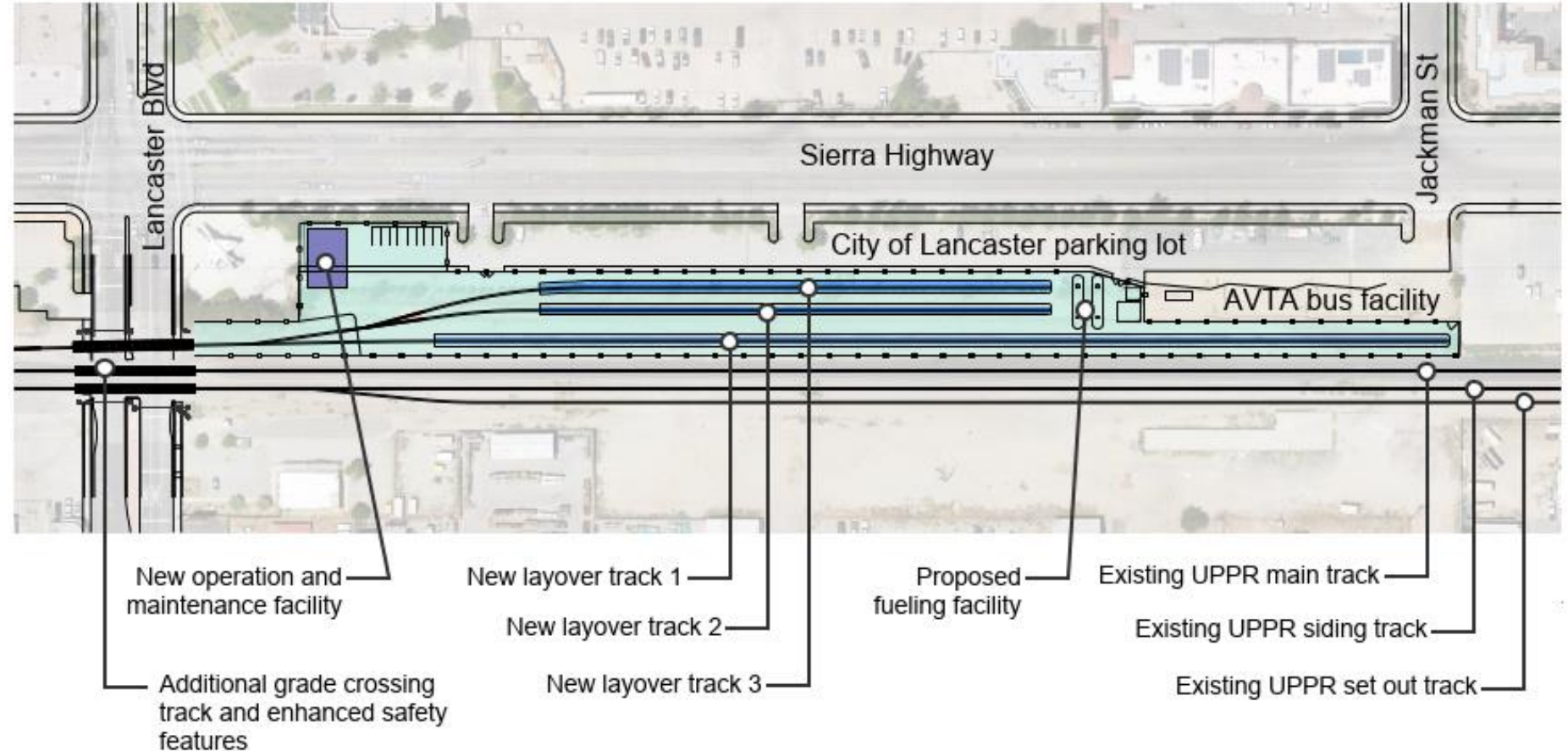
- > 1 x 680' long side platform.
- > 2 x operational Metrolink tracks.
- > Overnight storage for up to 8 Metrolink trains south of the station.



Proposed Project Elements – Lancaster Terminal Improvements

Base Design

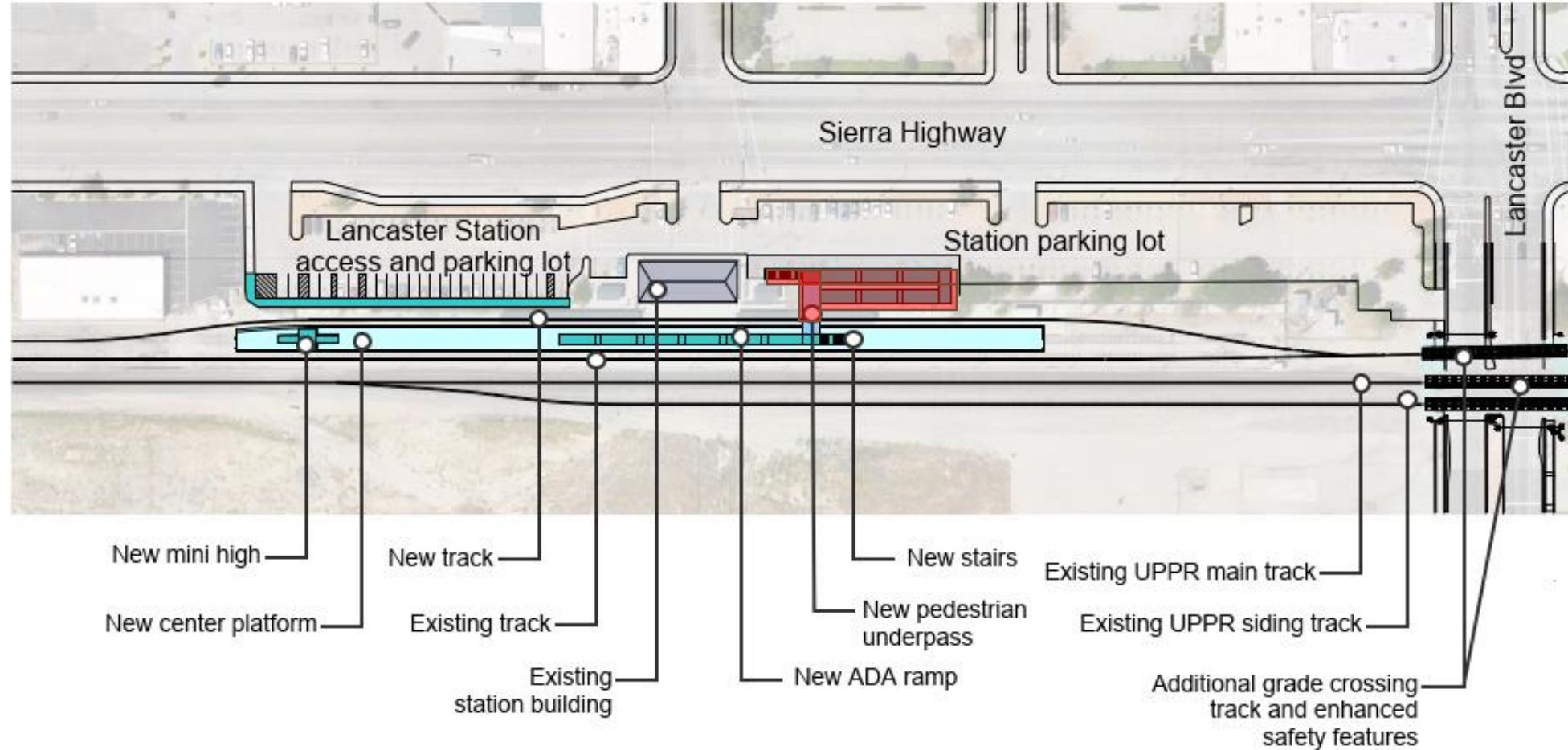
- > Expand existing layover facilities by adding 1 x 1000' and 2 x 500' storage tracks
- > Provision for train fueling
- > Provision for operator personnel facilities
- > Safety enhancements at Lancaster Blvd grade crossing



Proposed Project Elements – Lancaster Terminal Improvements

Design Option #1

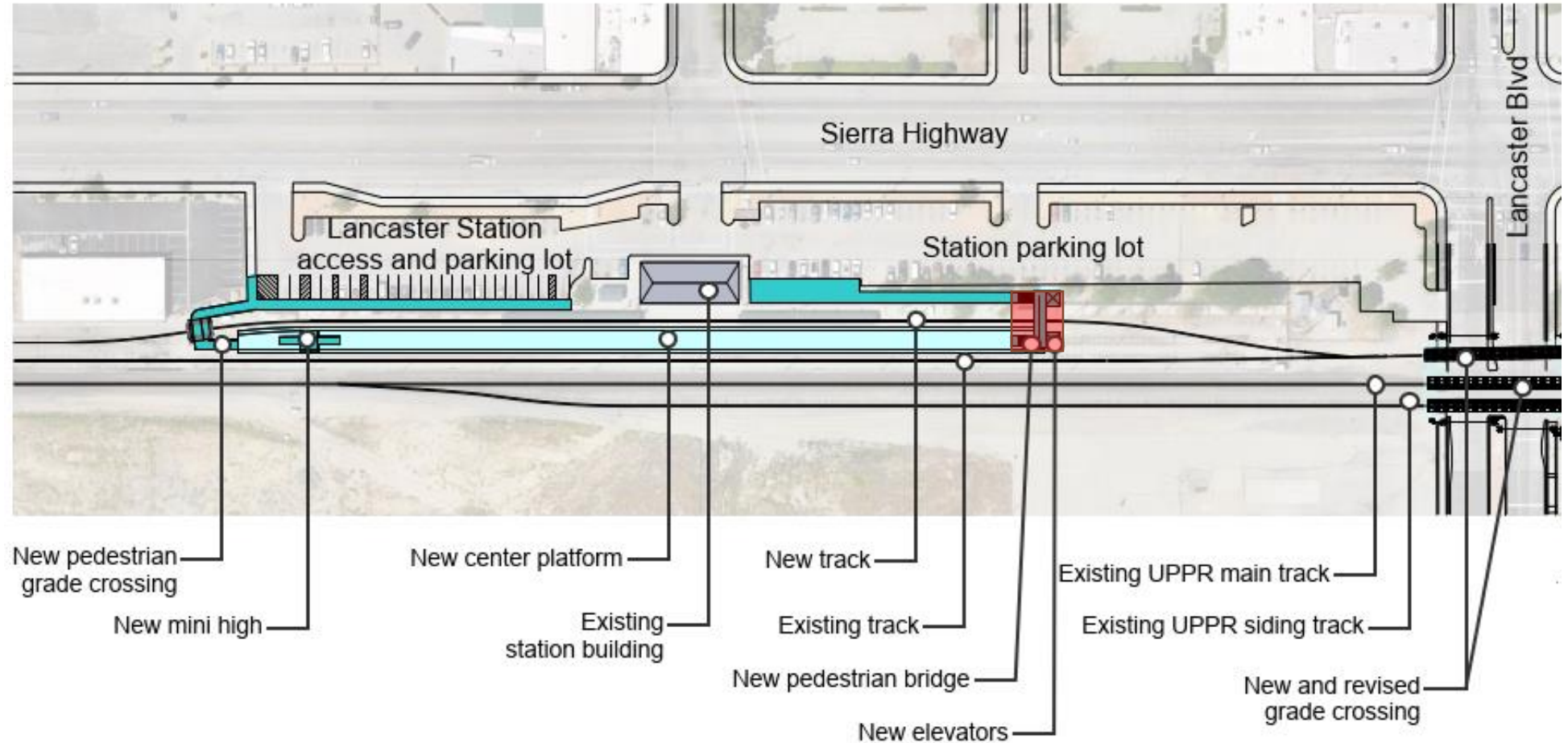
- > Replace existing platform with island platform
- > New pedestrian underpass



Proposed Project Elements – Lancaster Terminal Improvements

Design Option #2

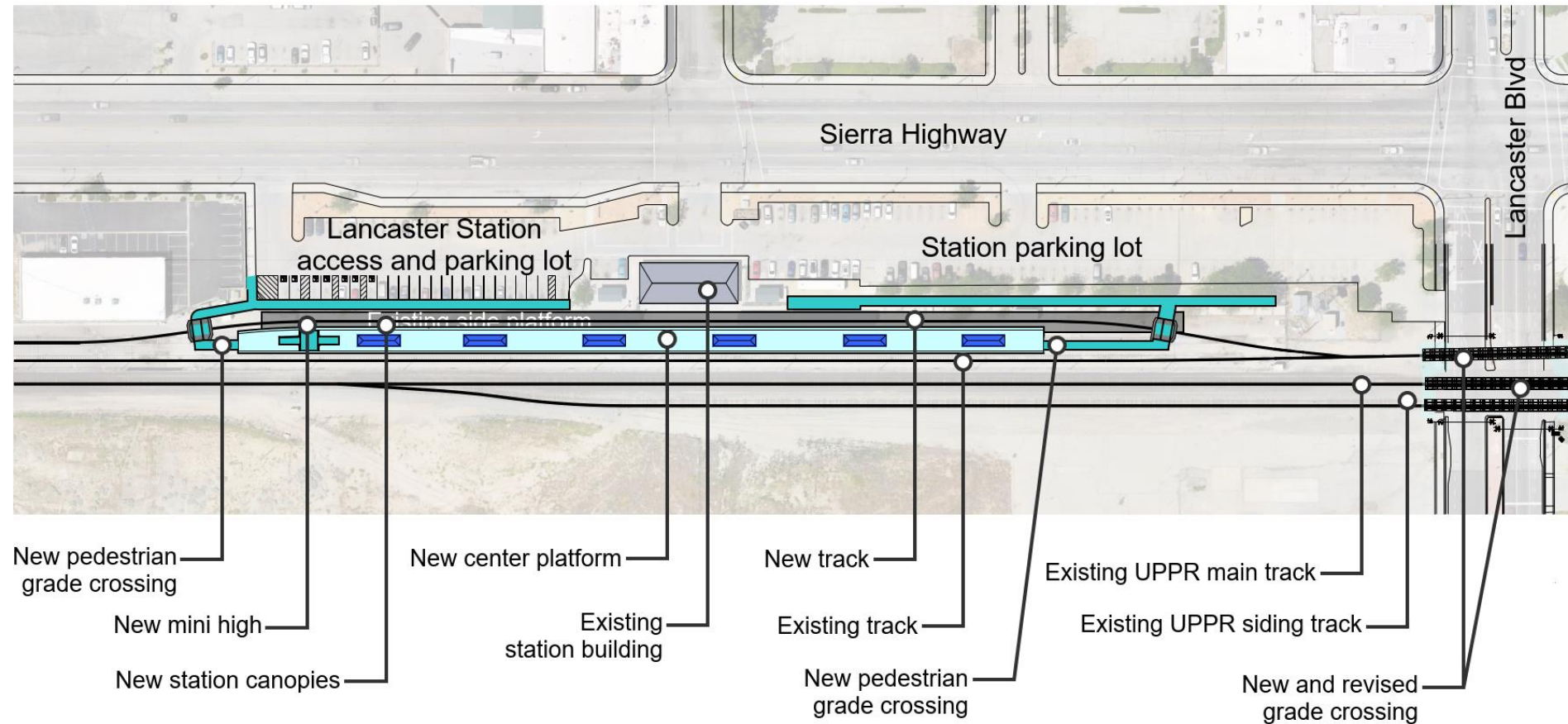
- > Replace existing platform with island platform
- > New pedestrian bridge



Proposed Project Elements – Lancaster Terminal Improvements

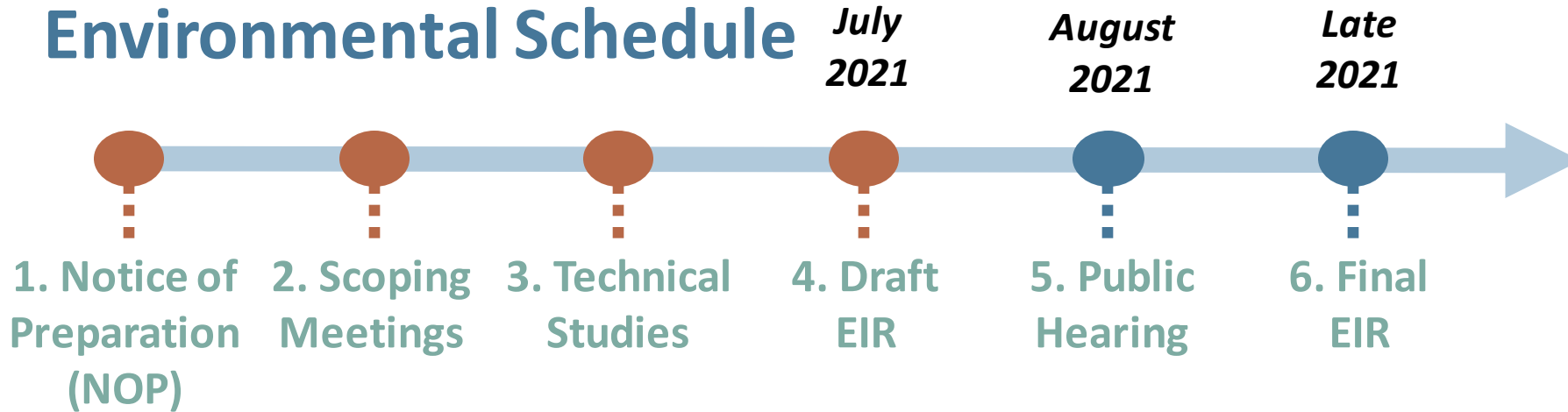
Design Option #3

- > Replace existing platform with island platform.
- > New at-grade pedestrian crossings at each end of the platform.

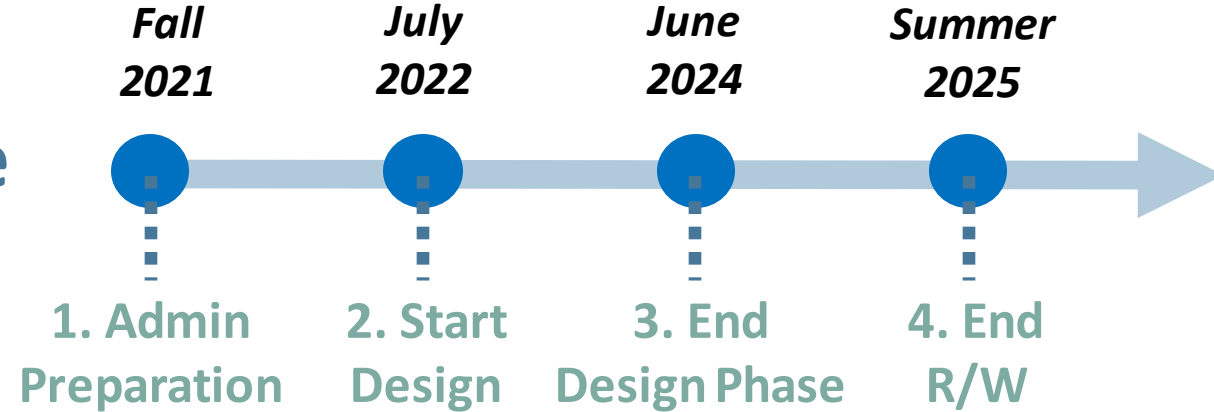


Timeline

Environmental Schedule



Design Schedule



Construction Schedule

Begin Construction – Dec 2024

Project Impacts Identified in Environmental Study



Aesthetics

Construction Impacts

- > Construction equipment and staging would alter views of undeveloped hillside along the Canyon Siding Extension site.
- > Potential nighttime construction would increase nighttime light or glare, temporarily affecting visibility and cause spillover light on adjacent land uses.

Operational Impacts

- > Permanent alteration to the hillside along the Canyon Siding Extension site may alter views and impact scenic vistas for residents located to the north.

Mitigation Measures

- > Screening of the Canyon Siding Extension construction site.
- > Require nighttime construction lighting be screened and directed toward the construction site.
- > Provide vegetation along slopes permanently altered by the Project.



View of the AVL corridor in Santa Clarita

Biological and Water Resources

Construction Impacts

Biological Resources

- > Site clearing, vegetation removal, and other construction activities within undeveloped areas that provide habitat for wildlife.
- > Construction activities could affect various wildlife and plant species particularly in and around the Balboa Double Track Extension and Canyon Siding Extension sites.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- > Water flowing off the construction sites may contain contaminants which can affect the water quality of downstream rivers.
- > Potential for contaminated groundwater.

Operational Impacts

- > Wastewater generated by wash activities at proposed layover facility in Lancaster.

Mitigation Measures

Biological Resources

- > Require preconstruction surveys for wildlife and sensitive species.
- > Require biological monitoring during construction.
- > Vegetation replacement and avoidance.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- > Require compliance with stormwater discharge permits including preparation of stormwater pollution prevention plans.
- > Require compliance with dewatering permits.
- > Require compliance with stormwater discharge permit for industrial activities.

Cultural, Tribal Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Construction Impacts

Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources

> AVL corridor has been identified as a Tribal Cultural Resource by the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation and within the traditional ancestral territory of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians.

> Ground-disturbing activities during construction have the potential to encounter previously undiscovered and undocumented archaeological and tribal cultural resources.

Paleontological Resources

> Ground-disturbing activities during construction also have the potential to uncover unique fossil or geological resources.

Operational Impacts

> No operational impacts.

Mitigation Measures

Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources

> Prepare an archaeological monitoring program including Native American monitoring in coordination with consulting tribes.

> Prepare a cultural resource monitoring plan to address the procedures required if there is an inadvertent discovery of cultural or tribal cultural resources.

Paleontological Resources

> Require full-time paleontological monitoring in areas where geologic conditions indicate a high likelihood of paleontological resources.

> Prepare a paleontological resources mitigation program.

Hazards, Hazardous Materials, Geology and Soils

Construction Impacts

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- > Potential accidental release of hazardous materials or wastes.
- > Potential for contaminated soil or groundwater.
- > Canyon Siding Extension site located on portion of the Whitaker-Bermite site listed on Cortese list of hazardous waste sites.
- > Balboa Double Track Site located within City of Los Angeles Methane zone.

Geology and Soils

- > Grading and slope stabilization activities could pose seismic hazards.

Operational Impacts

- > All operational impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- > Prepare hazardous Materials Management Plan.
- > Prepare soil and groundwater management plans.
- > Prepare Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments.
- > Comply with City of LA Building Code methane regulations.

Geology and Soils

- > Prepare a geotechnical design report.

Noise and Vibration

Construction Impacts

> Construction activities would exceed applicable noise limits at sensitive residential and commercial receivers.

- Balboa Double Track Extension (City of Los Angeles) noise limit is 78 decibels.
- Canyon Siding Extension (City of Santa Clarita) noise limits are 75 decibels for residential uses and 85 decibels for sensitive commercial uses.
- Lancaster Terminal Improvements (City of Lancaster) noise limits are 75 decibels for residential uses and 85 decibels for sensitive commercial uses.

> Construction activities would exceed vibration annoyance thresholds (0.2 inch/second) at residential receivers near each capital improvement site.

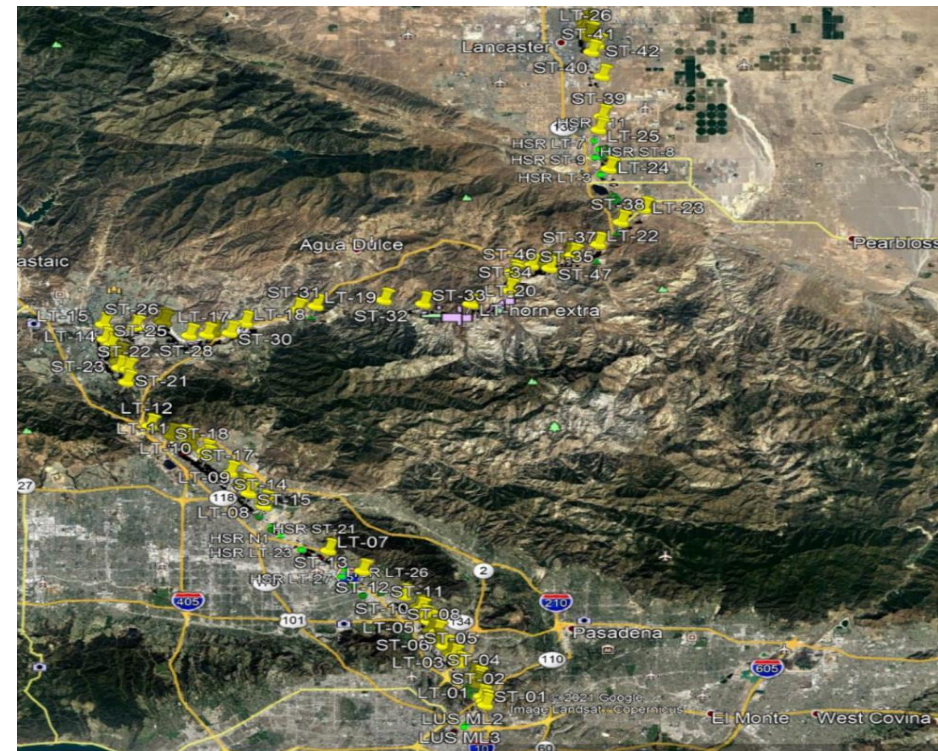
Operational Impacts

> Less-Than-Significant impacts associated with increased train activity.

Mitigation Measures

> Prepare a noise control plan based on applicable local noise limits.

> Prepare a vibration monitoring plan to be included in the noise control plan.



Transportation and Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases

Construction Impacts

Transportation

- > Restrictions on access, lane/road closures, and traffic delays from construction activities.
- > Potential for temporary Metrolink service interruptions and delays.

Operational Impacts

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases

- > Increased Metrolink service would generate NOx emissions that would exceed the SCAQMD regional thresholds, a significant and unavoidable impact.
- > Increased commuter rail service would reduce passenger vehicle miles travelled benefitting regional emissions and encouraging transit use.

Mitigation Measures

Transportation

- > Prepare construction traffic management plans.
- > Potential for temporary Metrolink service interruptions and delays.
- > Prepare Metrolink operating and construction service plan.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases

- > No mitigation available to address locomotive NOx emissions. Metrolink is studying alternative fuel and propulsion technologies with an ultimate goal of zero emission train operations.

Public Comment Session- DEIR Posting Locations

Draft EIR Locations:

1. Los Angeles Public Library – Los Feliz Branch (1874 Hillhurst Ave, LA, CA 90027)
2. Glendale Central Library (222 E Harvard St, Glendale, CA 91205)
3. Burbank Central Library (110 N Glenoaks Blvd, Burbank, CA 91502)
4. San Fernando Library (217 N Maclay Ave, San Fernando, CA 91340)
5. Old Town Newhall Library (24500 Main St, Santa Clarita, CA 91321)
6. Acton Agua Dulce Library (33792 Crown Valley Rd, Acton, CA 93510)
7. Palmdale City Library (700 E Palmdale Blvd, Palmdale, CA 93550)
8. Lancaster Library (601 W Lancaster Blvd, Lancaster, CA 93534)
9. AVL Project website: metro.net/avl



Note – AVL project team confirmed with the libraries that they are open and they can receive documents at these locations.

The DEIR is also on file at Metro Headquarters (One Gateway Plaza, 13th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012).

Public Hearings – Dates and Times

1. Public Hearings are scheduled as follows:

- **First Meeting:**
Wednesday, August 18, 2021
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
- **Second Meeting:**
Saturday, August 21, 2021
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

2. Meeting Format:

- **Virtual meetings via Zoom and telephone call-in options in Spanish and Armenian.**
- Presentation files are also posted on Metro AVL website to help ensure easy access to the presentation via Metro website and via the Zoom meeting.

Opportunity for Public Comment during Public Hearings

> During the meeting:

- Verbally via phone (call-in participants)
- Verbally via web/Zoom connection via “Raise Hand” function
- In writing via the Zoom Q&A function
- 2-minute Comment Period per speaker

> Duration of 45-day Comment Period

- **Postal mail:** Brian Balderrama, Deputy Executive Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop: 99-17-2, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Project e-mail:** AVL@metro.net
- **Online Comment Form on Metro AVL project website:** *metro.net/avl*
- **Project Telephone 24-hour Hotline (verbal):** 213.922.4844

Next Steps After 45-Day Comment Period

> Following the 45-day public review period, Metro will begin preparation of the Final EIR

- Each comment received will be documented in the Final EIR
- Written responses to comments raising significant environmental issues will be provided in the Final EIR.

> The completed Final EIR will go before the Metro Board of Directors prior to approval of the Project.

- All information from the Draft EIR, comments received during public review, and responses to comments will be considered by the Metro Board of Directors prior to approving the Project.

How to Submit Public Comments

Public Comments

To request to speak:



Zoom App Users: Raise Hand feature

Phone users: Dial *9 to raise your hand

When it is your turn to speak:



Zoom App Users: You will be prompted to unmute your mic

Phone Users: Dial *6 to unmute your mic

Written comments:



Zoom App Users: Use Zoom Q&A function

Zoom/Phone Users: Use online form Metro.net/AVL



Following Today's Meeting

Send public comments via mail, email, phone, or online comment form

Brian Balderrama, Deputy Executive Officer

LA Metro

*One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-17-2
Los Angeles, CA 90012*



avl@metro.net



213.922.4844



metro.net/avl



Comments are due by Friday, September 10, 2021, at 11:59pm.

How to Submit Public Comments

Public Comments

To request to speak:



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Written comments:



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00 : 02 : 00

Change Clock Type
Digital

Duration: 00 02 00

TimeUp Reminder (Optional): -- -- --

Choose Sound Effect
None

Choose TimeUp Sound
None

Enable Count Up Combine With Bar Clock

Start Pause
Stop Reset

Two minutes per speaker

Cómo enviar comentarios públicos

Comentarios públicos

Pedir la palabra:



Usuarios de la aplicación Zoom: Elijan la función "Levantar la mano"

Usuarios de teléfono: Marcar *9 para levantar la mano

Cuando sea su turno de hablar:



Usuarios de la aplicación Zoom: Se les pedirá que activen su micrófono

Usuarios de teléfono: Marquen *6 para activar su micrófono

Comentarios por escrito:



Usuarios de la aplicación Zoom: Elijan la función (Q&A) "Preguntas y respuestas" de Zoom



Usuarios de teléfono: Usen el formulario en línea en Metro.net/AVL

Después de la reunión de hoy

Envíe comentarios públicos por correo postal, correo electrónico, teléfono o en un formulario de comentarios en línea.



Brian Balderrama, Deputy Executive Officer

LA Metro

*One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-17-2
Los Angeles, CA 90012*



avl@metro.net



213.922.4844



metro.net/avl

Los comentarios deben enviarse antes del viernes, 10 de septiembre de 2021, a las 11:59 p.m.

Ինչպես հանրային մեկնաբանություններ ներկայացնել

Հանրային մեկնաբանություններ

Արտահայտվելու խնդրանք`



Zoom հավելվածի
օգտվողներ`

Ձեռք բարձրացնելու գործառույթ`

Հեռախոսից
օգտվողներ`

Չանգահարեք *9` ձեռք բարձրացնելու
համար

Երբ խոսելու ձեր հերթն է`



Zoom հավելվածի
օգտվողներ`

Ձեզ հուշում կտրվի, որ միացնեք ձեր
բարձրախոսի ձայնը

Հեռախոսից
օգտվողներ`

Չանգահարեք *6` ձեր բարձրախոսի
ձայնը միացնելու համար

Գրավոր մեկնաբանություններ`



Zoom հավելվածի
օգտվողներ`

Օգտվեք Zoom-ի «Հարցեր և
պատասխաններ» գործառույթից

Zoom-ից/հեռախոսից
օգտվողներ`

Օգտվեք առցանց ձևաթղթից`
Metro.net/AVL



Այսօրվա հանդիպումից հետո

Հանրային մեկնաբանություններ ուղարկեք
փոստով, էլ.նամակով, հեռախոսով կամ
առցանց մեկնաբանության ձյաթղթով



*Brian Balderrama, Deputy Executive
Officer*

LA Metro

One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-17-2
Los Angeles, CA 90012



avl@metro.net



213.922.4844



metro.net/avl

Մեկնաբանությունների վերջնաժամկետը
ուրբաթ, 2021թ. սեպտեմբերի 10, ժամը
11:59pm է:

How to Submit Public Comments

How to submit comments following today's meeting

- 45-day Comment Period from July 28 to September 10, 2021
- Send public comments via mail, email, phone, or online comment form



Brian Balderrama, Deputy Executive Officer
LA Metro
One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-17-2
Los Angeles, CA 90012



avl@metro.net



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