Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

Metro

REVISED AND RECIRCULATED NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: **Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties**

FROM: **Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)**
One Gateway Plaza
Mail Stop: 99-22-4
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SUBJECT: **Revised and Recirculated Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report**

PROJECT TITLE: **West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project**

NOTE: *A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was sent out for the Project on May 25, 2017. Subsequently, a revised NOP for the Project was sent on June 14, 2017 to inform the public of the extension of the comment period from July 7, 2017 to August 4, 2017. The purpose of this revised NOP for the Project is to inform the public of the Metro Board decision to eliminate Alternatives A, B, C, D, and Concepts F and H from further study, and carry forward northern alignment Concepts E and G into the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) process as the new northern alignment alternatives. This revised NOP also further explains the project and the EIS/EIR.*

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) will prepare a Draft EIS/EIR for the Project, with Metro serving as the lead agency for the EIR and FTA as the lead agency for the EIS. Metro needs to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Project. The Lead Agency and Responsible Agencies will need to use the environmental documentation prepared by Metro when considering permits or other approvals for the Project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than August 24, 2018.

Please send your response to Teresa Wong, Project Manager, at the address shown above. Metro will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Date July 11, 2018

Signature _____
Title Manjeet Ranu, Senior Executive Officer
Telephone 213-418-3157

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REVISED AND RECIRCULATED NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: JULY 11, 2018

TO: AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: REVISED AND RECIRCULATED NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PROJECT TITLE: WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT

FROM: LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (METRO)

PROJECT LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: The West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) Transit Corridor (Project) is a proposed light rail transit (LRT) line that would extend approximately 20 miles from downtown Los Angeles in the north toward the Los Angeles/Orange County line on the south, in or near the City of Cerritos. The proposed LRT line would connect downtown Los Angeles to southeast Los Angeles County, serving the cities and communities of Arts District, Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, unincorporated Florence-Graham community of Los Angeles County, Vernon, Huntington Park, Bell, Cudahy, South Gate, Downey, Paramount, Bellflower, Cerritos and Artesia (Figure 1). The Study Area includes some of Los Angeles County's most densely-developed and low-income residential neighborhoods and encompasses major regional employment centers, including significant industrial and manufacturing clusters in the County. The Study Area is primarily urbanized, with a wide-range of existing and planned land uses.

PROJECT INITIATION: The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has initiated a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the WSAB Transit Corridor Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Metro is the lead agency for the Project. The Draft EIS/EIR will be prepared in accordance with Section 15170 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is the lead agency for the EIS.

The purpose of this revised NOP is to notify interested agencies and parties, local jurisdictions, community organizations, and interested residents (collectively, interested parties) to the preparation of the Draft EIS/EIR for the Project. This revised NOP is to solicit

comments as to the scope and content of the Draft EIS/EIR and potential environmental effects from the Project; invite public participation in the Draft EIS/EIR scoping process; and announce the public scoping meetings.

At the April 2017 Board meeting, four northern alignment options (Figure 2) were carried into the environmental analysis. On May 25, 2017, a NOP was publicly released, informing interested parties of Metro's plans to prepare a Draft EIS/EIR and request input about the Project. A revised NOP was released on June 14, 2017 informing the public of the extension to the comment period end date from July 7, 2017 to August 4, 2017.

In response to scoping comments and other input received during and after the NOP comment period, and further technical study of the Project, four (4) additional northern alignment concepts were conceived for screening: Concepts E through H (Figure 3). On May 24, 2018, the Metro Board determined to eliminate the four (4) original northern alignment Alternatives A through D, and Concepts F and H from further consideration and analysis in the environmental process. The Metro Board decided to carry Concepts E and G (Figure 4) forward into the EIS/EIR process as the new northern alignment alternatives; additional description of the Project is provided below. The Board's reasoning for doing so is described in the Board's May 24, 2018 agenda report and public hearing, available online or via the address provided in this NOP (https://metro-pdf-merger.datamade.us/document/ocd-bill-f9a0b9a6-0aca-402a-8963-15a6b3595a0f and http://metro.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=868).

PROJECT GOALS: The Project will provide reliable transit service to meet the future mobility needs of residents, employees, and visitors who travel within downtown Los Angeles, and portions of the southeast Los Angeles County/Gateway Cities subregion. This new transit service will increase mobility and connectivity for historically underserved, transit-dependent communities; improve travel times on local and regional transportation networks relative to not making this investment; and accommodate substantial future employment and population growth. Goals of the Project are:

- Goal 1: Provide Mobility Improvements
- Goal 2: Support Local and Regional Land Use Plans and Policies
- Goal 3: Minimize Environmental Impacts
- Goal 4: Ensure Cost Feasibility and Financial Feasibility
- Goal 5: Ensure Equity

Figure 1. Project Map – Overview

Figure 2. Original Northern Alignment Alternatives

Figure 3. Additional Northern Alignment Concepts

Figure 4. Northern Alignment Alternatives for Environmental Review Map

PROJECT PURPOSE, NEED AND DESCRIPTION: The Project is a proposed LRT line that would extend approximately 20 miles from downtown Los Angeles, through southeast Los Angeles County, to a terminus within or near the City of Cerritos, traversing densely populated, low-income and heavily transit-dependent communities. The Project would provide reliable, fixed guideway transit service that would increase mobility and connectivity for historically underserved, transit-dependent communities; improve travel times on local and regional transportation networks relative to not making this investment; and accommodate substantial future employment and population growth. The Project would provide reliable transit service to meet the future mobility needs of residents, employees, and visitors who travel within the Study Area.

The Project includes two (2) possible alignment alternatives in the north: Alternatives E and G; utilizes the San Pedro Branch Right-of-Way in the central section; and the Metro-Owned

Right-of-Way in the southern section of the Study Area. The Project proposes to develop approximately 15 rail stations along the LRT line and identify transit oriented community land use concepts and first/last mile pedestrian/bicycle connectivity opportunities associated with the proposed stations. The Project will also consider the development of ancillary facilities such as a maintenance and operations facility/job training center, traction power substations, and grade separation structures, as well as transit patron parking areas at selected locations along the Project alignment. Additional, potential Project primary and ancillary features are described below.

Stakeholder coordination, design refinement, and impact assessment of the Project are ongoing. As a result, there will continue to be Project design iteration. As such, it is anticipated that the Draft EIS/EIR document may include, but is not limited to, variations to station number and locations; options for vertical alignments; options for parking facilities; specific alignment refinements; ancillary improvements; and leveraged improvements in collaboration with Metro's local partners and betterments to address these issues. Therefore, interested parties are advised to stay informed and engaged with the numerous Project engagement and communication channels via the project website below.

To not preclude the future opportunity to extend the WSAB line into Orange County, the Project will also evaluate an optional station at Bloomfield Avenue (just north of the Los Angeles County-Orange County boundary). Metro could determine that this extension and station should be built with all or part of the Project, rather than an undetermined future date. Therefore, interested parties should consider that possibility.

The Project may be constructed in one or more phases. The Draft EIS/EIR will evaluate potential project phasing. Metro is also concurrently evaluating potential Project delivery methods, which may be acted upon separately by the Metro Board after certification of the EIS/EIR for the Project.

The Project is identified in Metro's 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan, as amended, and is one of the many transit projects funded by Measure R (approved in November 2008) and Measure M (approved in November 2016). The Project will also rely on other funding sources.

This EIS/EIR may tier from other environmental documents. Subsequent projects by Metro or other agencies may tier from this EIS/EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The purpose of the Draft EIS/EIR is to disclose the impacts of the Project on the environment. Key CEQA environmental factors to be addressed include:

- Aesthetics and Visual Quality;
- Air Quality;
- Biological Resources;
- Cultural Resources (Historic, Archeological, Paleontological, and Tribal Cultural Resources);

- Geology and Soils;
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change;
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials;
- Hydrology and Water Quality;
- Land Use and Planning;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Population and Housing;
- Public Services;
- Parks and Recreation;
- Transportation and Traffic; and
- Utilities and Services.

Project design features and mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts during construction and operation will be identified in the Draft EIS/EIR.

SCOPING MEETINGS: Public scoping meetings to accept both written and oral comments on the scope of the Draft EIS/EIR will be held on the following dates and times:

Scoping Meeting # 1	**Scoping Meeting # 2**	**Scoping Meeting # 3**
Tuesday, July 24, 2018 4:00 - 7:00 pm The Los Angeles Athletic Club 431 W 7th St. Los Angeles, CA 90014	Wednesday, July 25, 2018 6:00 - 8:00 pm Clara Park – Turner Hall 4835 Clara St. Cudahy, CA 90201	Tuesday, July 31, 2018 6:00 - 8:00 pm Mayne Events Center 16408 Bellflower Blvd. Bellflower, CA 90706

The scope of the Draft EIS/EIR, including the goals and objectives, project area, project description, and the environmental impacts to be evaluated will be presented at the public scoping meetings. All Metro meetings are held in Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - compliant facilities. Spanish translation and Spanish-speaking staff will be provided at all scoping meetings. Japanese translation will be provided at Scoping Meeting #1.
ADA accommodations and other translations are available by calling (323) 466-3876 or California Relay at 711 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

For those unable to attend the meetings, a video recording of the formal presentation will be made available on the project website within one week of the conclusion of the meeting series. For more project information, please visit www.metro.net/wsab.

COMMENT DUE DATE: In addition to oral comments accepted at the scoping meetings, written comments on the scope of the Draft EIS/EIR, including the goals and objectives, project area and description, environmental impacts to be evaluated, and methodologies to be used in the evaluation, will be accepted Wednesday, July 11, 2018 through Friday, August 24, 2018. Metro does not anticipate extending the scoping comment period. Therefore, written comments should be sent to Metro on or before Friday, August 24, 2018 at the postal address or e-mail address below.

ADDRESS: Written and oral comments will be accepted at the public scoping meetings or they may be sent to Teresa Wong, Project Manager, Metro, One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop: 99-22-4, Los Angeles, CA 90012, or via e-mail at WSAB@metro.net.

Date July 11, 2018

Signature

Title Manjeet Ranu, Senior Executive Officer

Print Form

Appendix C

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #2017061007

Project Title: West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project

Lead Agency: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority | Contact Person: Teresa Wong

Mailing Address: One Gateway Plaza, MS: 99-22-4 | Phone: 213-922-2854

City: Los Angeles | Zip: 90012 | County: Los Angeles

Project Location: County: Los Angeles | City/Nearest Community: _____

Cross Streets: _____ | Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): ____° ____′ ____″ N / ____° ____′ ____″ W | Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ | Section: _____ | Twp.: _____ | Range: _____ | Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 710, 5, 60,10, 101,605, 91 | Waterways: Los Angeles River, Coyote Creek

Airports: _____ | Railways: _____ | Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: ☒ NOP ☐ Draft EIR | NEPA: ☐ NOI | Other: ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR | ☐ EA | ☐ Final Document
☐ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ | ☐ Draft EIS | ☐ Other: _____
☐ Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ | ☐ FONSI

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☐ Other: _____

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Educational: _____
☐ Recreational: _____
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

☒ Transportation: Type Light Rail Transit
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☐ Power: Type _____ MW _____
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual ☒ Fiscal ☒ Recreation/Parks ☐ Vegetation
☐ Agricultural Land ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding ☒ Schools/Universities ☒ Water Quality
☒ Air Quality ☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☐ Septic Systems ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Archeological/Historical ☒ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Sewer Capacity ☐ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Biological Resources ☐ Minerals ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☒ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone ☒ Noise ☒ Solid Waste ☒ Land Use
☒ Drainage/Absorption ☒ Population/Housing Balance ☒ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Cumulative Effects
☒ Economic/Jobs ☒ Public Services/Facilities ☒ Traffic/Circulation ☐ Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The Project is a proposed LRT line that would extend approximately 20 miles from downtown Los Angeles, through southeast Los Angeles County, to a terminus within or near the City of Cerritos, traversing densely populated, low-income and heavily transit-dependent communities. The Project would provide reliable, fixed guideway transit service that would increase mobility and connectivity for historically underserved, transit-dependent communities; improve travel times on local and regional transportation networks relative to not making this investment; and accommodate substantial future employment and population growth. The Project would provide reliable transit service to meet the future mobility needs of residents, employees, and visitors who travel within the Study Area. (Continued on separate page)

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

X	Air Resources Board	X	Office of Historic Preservation
	Boating & Waterways, Department of		Office of Public School Construction
	California Emergency Management Agency	X	Parks & Recreation, Department of
	California Highway Patrol		Pesticide Regulation, Department of
X	Caltrans District #7	X	Public Utilities Commission
	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	X	Regional WQCB #4
X	Caltrans Planning		Resources Agency
	Central Valley Flood Protection Board		Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy		S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
	Coastal Commission		San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
	Colorado River Board		San Joaquin River Conservancy
	Conservation, Department of		Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
	Corrections, Department of	X	State Lands Commission
	Delta Protection Commission		SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
	Education, Department of		SWRCB: Water Quality
	Energy Commission		SWRCB: Water Rights
X	Fish & Game Region #5		Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
	Food & Agriculture, Department of	X	Toxic Substances Control, Department of
	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	X	Water Resources, Department of
	General Services, Department of		
	Health Services, Department of		Other:
	Housing & Community Development		Other:
X	Native American Heritage Commission		

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 07/11/2018 Ending Date 08/24/2018

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: LA County Metro. Trans. Authority
Address: One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop: 99-22-5
City/State/Zip: Los Angeles, CA 90012
Contact: Teresa Wong
Phone: 213.922.2854

Applicant: LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Address: One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop: 99-22-5
City/State/Zip: Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 213.922.2854

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: [signature] **Date:** 7/3/2018

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Project Description (Continued):

The Project includes two (2) possible alignment alternatives in the north: Alternatives E and G; utilizes the San Pedro Branch Right-of-Way in the central section; and the Metro-Owned Right-of-Way in the southern section of the Study Area. The Project proposes to develop approximately 15 rail stations along the LRT line and identify transit oriented community land use concepts and first/last mile pedestrian/bicycle connectivity opportunities associated with the proposed stations. The Project will also consider the development of ancillary facilities such as a maintenance and operations facility/job training center, traction power substations, and grade separation structures, as well as transit patron parking areas at selected locations along the Project alignment.