



LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (METRO)

ORIGINAL FILED

Notice of Preparation of Environmental Impact Report

JUL 13 2007

TO: Agencies, organizations, and interested parties

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

PROJECT TITLE: **Canoga Transportation Corridor, Metro Orange Line Extension (North)**

PROJECT LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: The project is an approximately 4-mile extension of transit service from the current terminus of the Metro Orange Line (MOL) at the existing Canoga Station, north to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station (there are three potential alignment corridors extending north from the Canoga Station to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station: Topanga Canyon, Canoga and De Soto), with a possible 2-mile extension further north (along De Soto or Topanga Canyon) to a new park-and-ride facility at the SR-118 freeway. The Canoga alignment includes an approximately 100-foot right-of-way owned by Metro. There are approximately 95 leases/sign board contracts and licenses/easements within that right-of-way. The project may also extend south to the Warner Center transit hub. The three alternate potential alignment corridors contain a mixture of commercial, industrial and residential (multi- and single-family) uses, with more residentially zoned land along the Topanga Canyon and De Soto routes. Several mobile home parks are located adjacent to the Metro right-of-way.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) proposes to extend transit service from the existing Metro Orange Line terminus at Canoga near Vanowen, north to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station. Seven potential build alternatives have been identified: 1) Mixed Flow Rapid Bus on Canoga, 2) Dedicated Lane Rapid Bus on Canoga, 3) Canoga Avenue Busway – MOL rail right-of-way Extension, 4) Mixed Flow Rapid Bus on De Soto, 5) Dedicated Lane Rapid Bus on De Soto, 6) Mixed Flow Rapid on Topanga Canyon, and 7) Dedicated Lane Rapid Bus on Topanga Canyon. During preparation of the EIR, a screening analysis will be undertaken to identify the most feasible/desirable alternatives to be discussed at an equal project level throughout the EIR. The screening analysis will take into account environmental, socio-economic, economic, logistical and other factors in evaluating the alternatives. It is anticipated that, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), less feasible/desirable alternatives will be analyzed at a lesser level of detail appropriate to CEQA alternatives. The EIR will also consider the feasibility of the extension of transit service from the Chatsworth Metrolink Station, north to a new park-and-ride facility at the SR-118 freeway. Two potential routes for this further extension will be evaluated: Topanga Canyon and De Soto. In addition the EIR will consider a Transportation System Management Alternative (TSM), which will include the addition of bus service on Canoga and improvements to bus service along existing routes. The EIR will also consider the No Project Alternative. Modifications to the Division 8 bus maintenance facility on Canoga at Nordhoff, or a new maintenance or bus parking facility may also be evaluated in the EIR.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The following topics have been preliminarily identified to be studied in the EIR: Traffic, Circulation and Parking, Land Use and Development and Community and Neighborhood Impacts, Displacement and Relocation of Uses, Visual and Aesthetic Impacts, Air Quality, Noise and Vibration, Biological Resources, Geotechnical/ Sub-surface/Seismic and Hazardous Materials and Wastes, Water Resources, Energy, Historic, Archeological and Paleontological Impacts, Parklands and Other Community Facilities, Safety and Security, Construction Impacts, and Growth Inducing Impacts.

SCOPING MEETING: Three scoping meetings will be held for the project: One meeting for agencies will be held July 24, 2007 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Metro offices (Gateway Room, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012). Two public scoping meetings will be held: Thursday, July 26, 2007, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Chatsworth High School, Chancellor Hall, 10027 Lurline Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311; and Monday, July 30, 2007, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. NEW Academy of Canoga Park, Multi-Purpose Room 21425 Cohasset Street, Canoga Park, CA 91303. The public scoping meetings will begin as an open house with Metro staff providing information on the project. A presentation will be made from 7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Formal public testimony on the scope of the EIR will be received by court reporters throughout the event. Verbal comments made during the 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. portion of the scoping meetings will be recorded and incorporated into the Draft EIR public record. Written comments received at the address below by Monday, August 13, 5:00 p.m. will also be incorporated.

AGENCY RESPONSE TO THIS NOP: Metro requests your agency's views on the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the project. Your agency may need to use the EIR when considering any permit or other approval that your agency must issue for the project. Written responses and comments will be accepted between July 13, 2007 and August 13, 2007. Please send written comments to Walt Davis, Project Manager, Metro, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Your comments may also be sent by e-mail to Daviswa@metro.net.