

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Notice of Public Hearings

DATE: May 27, 2026

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Members of the Public

PROJECT: Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as lead federal agency, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA or Metro), as project sponsor, have issued this Notice of Availability (NOA) to advise other agencies and the public that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project (Project) is available for review and comment. The EA, prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), analyzes potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of the Project.

Project Background: The Project has undergone a long history of planning and environmental review since 2007, beginning with an alternatives analysis of 47 concepts in 2007 that was narrowed through various environmental review documents and technical studies to selection of a locally preferred alternative (LPA) in December 2022. The Final Environmental Impact Report, prepared by Metro to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), was certified in May 2024. An EA under NEPA was initiated in 2025 to evaluate the Build Alternative, which is the LPA with refinements identified in the Final Environmental Impact Report, and a No Build Alternative in accordance with Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations 771.119.

Project Location: The Build Alternative evaluated in the EA would consist of approximately 4.7 miles of new and reconfigured light rail transit guideway to extend the Metro E Line east from the current terminus at Atlantic Boulevard/Pomona Boulevard in East Los Angeles (unincorporated Los Angeles County) to an at-grade terminal station at Washington Boulevard/Greenwood Avenue in the City of Montebello. The Study Area is an approximately 0.5 to 2 miles radius from the Build Alternative's guideway centerline, pending environmental topics, and includes the cities of Commerce and Montebello, as well as the East Los Angeles community. The Study Area varies in distance from the alignment to encompass the area of localized impacts and includes nearby boundaries of cities and census tracts that are considered in the evaluation of topics such as land use and growth. The Study Area and Build Alternative are shown in Figure 1.

Project Purpose and Need: In support of the goals in Metro's 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan and Metro's Vision 2028 Strategic Plan, the purposes of the Project are to:

- Enhance regional connectivity by extending the existing Metro E Line farther east from the current East Los Angeles terminus.
- Accommodate growing travel demand resulting from increased future population and employment growth.

- Provide mobility options to increase travel efficiencies to and from eastern Los Angeles County.
- Improve access to existing concentrations of activity centers and employment along the Metro E Line that would be served by the Project.
- Promote economic growth in eastern Los Angeles County.
- Improve accessibility and connectivity for transit-dependent populations.

The need for the Project is as follows:

- Growing population and employment densities: By 2050, continued population and employment growth in the already dense Study Area is expected to worsen congestion, making enhanced transit essential for maintaining mobility and access to major activity centers.
- Local roadway congestion impacts on bus transit: Heavy congestion on arterial streets limits bus reliability in the Study Area, where few rail options exist and no direct transit routes parallel the corridor without multiple transfers.
- Arterial and freeway congestion impacts on vehicle travel: Peak-period congestion on major freeways and arterials – including Interstate 5, State Route 60, Interstate 10, Interstate 710, and Interstate 605 – create significant delays, compounded by heavy truck traffic on key east-west routes.
- Quality of life: Air quality improvements in eastern Los Angeles County would result by improving transit access, which would decrease vehicle trips, congestion, and pollutant emissions.
- High transit demand: The Study Area demonstrates strong transit dependence, underscoring the need for improved transit access and connectivity.

Project Description: Under the Build Alternative, Metro proposes to construct an electric-powered light rail transit service extension in eastern Los Angeles County consisting of 4.7 miles of reconfigured and new light rail transit guideway of the Metro E Line east from the current terminus at Atlantic Boulevard to an at-grade terminal station in the City of Montebello. The 4.7 miles would include reconfiguration of 0.4 mile of existing track for a transition to a new 4.3-mile extension. The configuration includes an approximately 3.1-mile underground guideway, 0.9-mile aerial guideway, and 0.7-mile at-grade guideway. There would be one relocated underground Atlantic/Pomona station and three new stations, including an underground station at Atlantic Boulevard and Whittier Boulevard intersection, an underground station beneath Smithway Street and Citadel Outlets, and an at-grade station at Washington Boulevard west of Greenwood Avenue. The Build Alternative would also include guideway and system facilities to support vehicle operations, such as overhead catenary systems, radio communications, and train control houses that would be constructed along the alignment; a modification to existing tracks west of the proposed alignment extension (Maravilla Crossover); and a maintenance and storage facility (MSF). Three site options for the MSF are being evaluated in this EA, but only one would be selected. Of the evaluated MSF site options, two are in the City of Montebello and one is in the City of Commerce. The Build Alternative and MSF site options are shown in Figure 1.

Summary of Potential Environmental Effects: The EA identified that there would be no adverse effects related to the following environmental topics: air quality, economics, growth, land use and development, acquisitions and relocations, utilities, and visual resources and aesthetics. Further,

there would be a *de minimis* impact on Section 4(f) resources. The EA identified adverse effects associated with operation and construction of the Build Alternative related to the following environmental topics: biological resources; community impacts; historic, archaeological, and tribal resources; geology, soils, and paleontological resources; hazardous materials; water resources; noise and vibration; safety and security; and transportation. Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures were identified for these resources with adverse effects. As described in the EA, the Build Alternative would result in no adverse effects on these resources with the implementation of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation efforts for the Project are ongoing.

Public Meetings: FTA, in coordination with Metro, invites all interested members of the public to attend a public hearing (virtual or in-person) and provide oral and written comments on issues related to environmental effects. A court reporter will be present to transcribe all comments made, and Spanish translation services will also be available. Information on public hearings is provided in the table below.

Jurisdiction	Date and Time	Location
East Los Angeles	Saturday, June 6, 2026 10 am – 12 pm	East Los Angeles Library 4837 E 3rd St, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA 90022
Virtual	Monday, June 8, 2026 11:30 am – 1 pm	Zoom Link: TinyURL.com/EastsideHearings Call-In Number: 213.338.8477 Meeting ID: 854 3383 6093 <i>Número de llamada en español: 872-240-3412</i> <i>Código de acceso: 637-473-381</i>
Commerce	Wednesday, June 10, 2026 6 pm – 8 pm	Commerce Senior Citizens Center 2555 Commerce Way Commerce, CA 90040
Montebello	Saturday, June 13, 2026 10 am – 12 pm	Chet Holifield Park Community Center 1060 S Greenwood Ave Montebello, CA 90640

Americans With Disabilities Act Requirements: Upon request, sign language interpretation, materials in alternative formats, and other accommodations are available to the public for Metro-sponsored meetings and events. All requests for reasonable accommodations, interpretation services, and materials in other languages must be made at least three working days (72 hours) prior to the scheduled meeting date. Please submit requests by calling (323) 466-3876 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Individuals with hearing or speech impairment may use California Relay Service 711 + (323) 466-3876.

Document Availability: The EA will be available for review at the following locations:

1. Federal Transit Administration, Region 9 Southern California Office, 888 S Figueroa St, Ste 440, Los Angeles, CA 90017
2. Metro Headquarters, Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012

3. East Los Angeles Library, 4837 E 3rd St, Los Angeles, CA 90022
4. Rosewood Neighborhood Library, 5655 Jillson St, Commerce, CA 90040
5. Chet Holifield County Library, 1060 S Greenwood Ave, Montebello, CA 90640
6. Project Website: https://www.metro.net/projects/eastside_phase2/

Written Comments: A 30-day public comment period will commence on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, and will conclude at 5 pm on Friday, June 26, 2026. Written comments should be addressed to:

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All comments received during the public comment period will be considered by FTA in coordination with Metro. For additional information or to request the Environmental Assessment document in alternative formats, please contact Jill Liu as listed above.



Figure 1. Build Alternative