



Metro

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: October 18, 2017

TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT TITLE: Division 20 Portal Widening/Turnback Facility

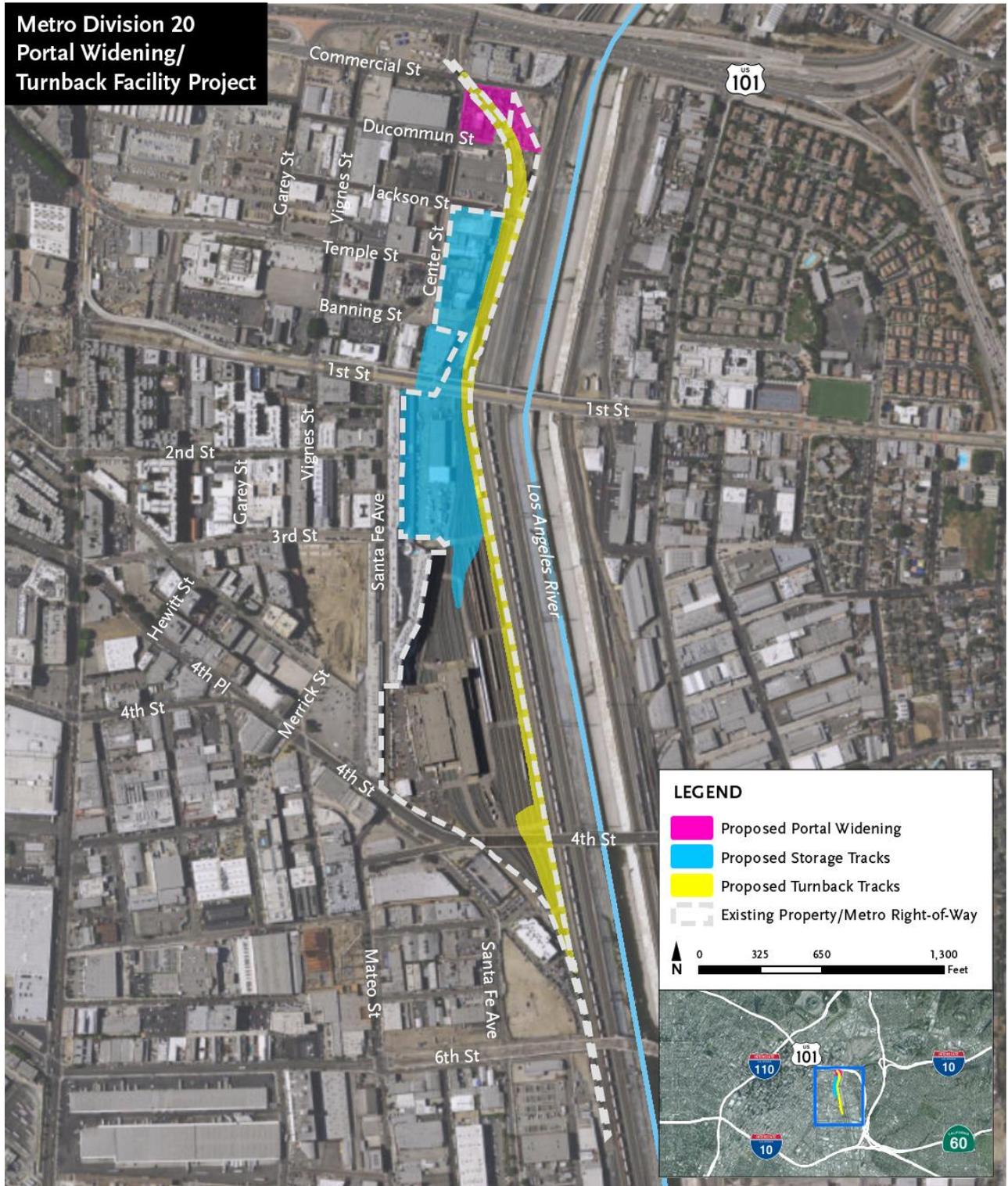
FROM: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)

PROJECT LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: The Division 20 Portal Widening/Turnback Facility Project (Proposed Project) would be located within and in the vicinity of the existing Division 20 Rail Yard. The Division 20 rail yard is an approximately 45-acre site that houses the Metro Red/Purple Line train storage and maintenance facilities. The existing rail yard is generally bounded by the Los Angeles River to the east, Santa Fe Avenue to the west, Ducommun Street to the north, and 6th Street Bridge to the south. The footprint of the Proposed Project, including expansion of the existing boundaries, west towards Center Street, and north towards Commercial Street are shown in Figure 1. The western boundary of the Project Site includes commercial/industrial properties along Center Street, as well as the One Santa Fe mixed-use complex south of the 1st Street Bridge. Immediately to the south of the Project Site is the Arts District which is comprised of housing, industrial uses, commercial uses, art galleries, and exhibition warehouse spaces. Land uses to the north include commercial/industrial buildings, and the Los Angeles River is located to the east beyond freight rail tracks.

PROJECT INITIATION: On March 23, 2017, an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted by the Metro Board of Directors. Since that date, the design team has been looking at various design refinements to optimize operational flexibility at the turnback facility. These refinements require additional environmental analysis in the context of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Metro has initiated a Draft EIR process for the Division 20 Portal Widening/Turnback Facility Project. Metro is the lead agency for the Proposed Project. The Draft EIR will be prepared in accordance with Sections 15120 through 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines. The purpose of this notice is to alert interested parties regarding preparation of the Draft EIR, invite public participation in the CEQA scoping process, and announce the public scoping meeting.

Figure 1. Project Map – Overview



NOTE: Exact location of storage tracks and turnback tracks to be determined.

Source: Terry A. Hayes Associates Inc., 2017.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: Given the ongoing Metro Purple Line Westside Extension projects, storage constraints that inhibit fleet expansion, and the absence of a turnback facility, the goal of the Proposed Project is to accommodate the expansion and associated increased ridership of Metro's heavy rail system. The two objectives of the project are:

Objective #1: Construct core capacity improvements needed for increased service levels on Metro Red and Purple Lines.

Objective #2: Construct new tracks and switches that will allow trains to provide faster and more reliable service times at Union Station.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Proposed Project would reconfigure existing tracks and access roads to accommodate a turnback facility at the Division 20 rail yard, construct new storage tracks, and widen the tunnel portal that currently connects to the Metro Red/Purple Line in order to substantially increase train movement within the yard. The existing turnback tracks would be extended towards 6th Street and reconfigured to provide faster service times at Union Station. All turnback tracks would be located within the footprint of the existing Division 20 Rail Yard. Additionally, the Proposed Project would install a new traction power substation and emergency backup power generator and modify the 1st Street Bridge to provide train access to the new storage tracks. Figure 1 identifies key components of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would demolish a total of approximately 306,875 square feet of existing buildings at the following addresses: 815 East Temple Street, 234 Center Street, 210 Center Street, 1001 East 1st Street, and 214 South Santa Fe Avenue. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would vacate Jackson Street, Banning Street, and Ducommun Street in their segments east of Center Street.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The purpose of the Draft EIR is to disclose the impacts of the Proposed Project on the environment. The Draft EIR will address all topics listed in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, and will focus on the following topics that have been identified as key impact areas:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Energy Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise and Vibration
- Tribal Cultural Resources

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

SCOPING MEETING: Two public scoping meetings to accept comments on the scope of the Draft EIR will be held on the dates and at the locations listed below.

Wednesday, October 25, 2017
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Art Share L.A.
801 East 4th Place
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Wednesday, November 8, 2017
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm Japanese American
Cultural and Community Center
244 S. San Pedro Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The scope of the Draft EIR, including the project objectives, project area and description, and the environmental impacts to be evaluated will be presented at the public scoping meetings. All Metro meetings are held in Americans with Disability Act (ADA)-compliant facilities. Spanish and Japanese translations will be provided. ADA accommodations and other translations are available by calling (213) 922-4484 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

COMMENT DUE DATE: Written comments on the scope of the Draft EIR, including the project area and description, the impacts to be evaluated, and the methodologies to be used in the evaluation, will be accepted during the comment period and should be sent to Metro on or before November 17, 2017 at the postal address or e-mail address below.

ADDRESSES: Comments will be accepted at the public scoping meeting or they may be sent to Cris B. Liban, D.Env., P.E., Executive Officer, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability, Metro, One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-16-9 or via e-mail at LibanE@metro.net. For more information, visit metro.net/capital/projects or contact Michael Cortez, Community Relations Manager at cortezmic@metro.net or 213-922-4465.