

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
(METRO)**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
FOR THE REGIONAL CONNECTOR TRANSIT CORRIDOR  
PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15087, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). This Notice of Availability serves as a notice to the public regarding the availability of the environmental document and seeks public opinion and comment. FTA is the lead agency for the purposes of NEPA, and Metro is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA.

**Project Description and Location**

The Regional Connector project would implement a light rail connector in downtown Los Angeles that will directly link the tracks of the Metro Gold Line light rail system with the Metro Blue Line and future Metro Expo Line. The connector would run from the current Metro Blue Line terminus at 7<sup>th</sup> Street/Metro Center Station to a point on the Metro Gold Line near the Little Tokyo/Arts District Station. The Regional Connector Transit Corridor project area is in downtown Los Angeles and encompasses approximately two square miles. The entire project area is within the City of Los Angeles. The boundaries of the project area generally extend north to the US 101 freeway, east to the Los Angeles River, south to 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and west to the SR 110 freeway.

The Draft EIS/EIR discusses the purpose and need for the project and identifies and evaluates proposed transit improvement alternatives. It includes five alternatives: No Build, Transportation Systems Management (TSM), and three alternatives utilizing Light Rail Transit (LRT) technology: Fully Underground, Underground Emphasis and At-Grade Emphasis.

**Public Review and Comment Period**

The public review and comment period for the Draft EIS/EIR shall begin on Friday, September 3, 2010 and last for 45 days, ending on Monday, October 18, 2010. All public comments must be received by 5:00PM on Monday, October 18, 2010. During this time, agencies and members of the public may submit comments on the Draft EIS/EIR to:

Ms. Dolores Roybal Saltarelli  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-2  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
e-mail: [roybald@metro.net](mailto:roybald@metro.net)

Mr. Ray Tellis  
Federal Transit Administration  
888 South Figueroa Street, Suite 1850  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
e-mail: [ray.tellis@dot.gov](mailto:ray.tellis@dot.gov)

Comments may also be submitted at public hearings, which will be held at the following times and locations:

Tuesday, September 28, 2010  
6:30PM to 8:00PM  
Japanese American National Museum  
369 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Monday, October 4, 2010  
11:30AM to 1:00PM  
Los Angeles Police Department Headquarters  
100 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

The buildings used for the public hearings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Any individual who requires special accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in alternative formats, are requested to contact Ms. Ann Kerman, Metro Community Relations Manager, at (213)922-7671, or [kermana@metro.net](mailto:kermana@metro.net).

### **Significant Environmental Effects**

The Draft EIS/EIR addresses the existing conditions and environmental setting in the project area. Potentially significant and unavoidable impacts could occur with each of the three LRT alternatives. Under CEQA, the LRT alternatives would have significant and unavoidable impacts in five areas. These are transportation, air quality, paleontology, construction and cumulative. Where appropriate, mitigation measures are identified to reduce potentially adverse environmental impacts that may result from the alternatives being considered.

### **Ways to Obtain the Draft EIS/EIR**

The Draft EIS/EIR will be distributed on Metro's website at [www.metro.net/projects/connector](http://www.metro.net/projects/connector). CDs and paper copies of the Draft EIS/EIR may be

requested from Ms. Dolores Roybal Saltarelli at the address shown above. Paper copies of the Draft EIS/EIR will also be available for public viewing at the public hearings and at the following depositories:

Central Library  
Los Angeles Public Library  
530 W. 6th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Little Tokyo Branch Library  
Los Angeles Public Library  
203 S. Los Angeles St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Chinatown Branch Library  
Los Angeles Public Library  
639 N. Hill Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Von KleinSmid Center (VKC)  
USC  
University Park Campus  
Los Angeles, CA 90089

Pasadena Central Library  
City of Pasadena  
285 E. Walnut  
Pasadena, CA 91101

East Los Angeles Library  
4801 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St  
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Culver City Library  
4975 Overland Ave  
Culver City, CA 90230

Santa Monica Library  
601 Santa Monica Blvd  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Long Beach Library  
101 Pacific Ave  
Long Beach, CA 90822

The Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project is not located on any sites enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.