

Appendix H

Invitation Letters

Mr. _____
Title
Agency
Address
City, CA 90zip

Re: Invitation to Participate in the Environmental Review Process for the
Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project

Dear Mr. _____:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the proposed Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project. The Regional Connector project proposes to provide a direct link through downtown Los Angeles that connects the Metro Gold Line to Pasadena, the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension, the Metro Blue Line, and the Metro Exposition Line. The corridor extends for approximately 1.8 miles between the 7th Street/Metro Center Station and the Little Tokyo/Arts District Station.

The purpose of this project is to improve the region's public transit service and mobility. The overall goal of the project is to improve mobility within the corridor by connecting to the light rail service lines currently in operation or in construction through downtown Los Angeles. This link would serve communities across the region, allowing greater accessibility while serving population and employment growth in downtown Los Angeles. The enclosed scoping information packet provides more details including a preliminary schedule.

An Alternatives Analysis has been completed for this project and the final report may be found at http://www.metro.net/projects_studies/connector/final_alternatives_analysis_study.htm. Through the Alternatives Analysis process and with input from the public and agencies, the project area and the range of alternatives has been refined. The project area and alternatives identified in the Alternatives Analysis will be the subject of the Draft EIS/EIR.

Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users establishes an enhanced environmental review process for certain FTA projects, increasing the transparency of the process, as well as opportunities for participation. The requirements of Section 6002 apply to the project that is the subject of this letter.

As part of the environmental review process for this project, the lead agencies must identify, as early as practicable, any other Federal and non-Federal agencies that may have an interest in

the project, and invite such agencies to become participating agencies in the environmental review process.¹

Your agency has been identified preliminarily as one that may have an interest in this project, because of the sensitive adjacent land uses, and facilities located in many parts of this corridor; accordingly, you are being extended this invitation to become actively involved as a participating agency in the environmental review process for the project.

As a participating agency, you will be afforded the opportunity, together with the public, to be involved in defining the purpose of and need for the project, as well as in determining the range of alternatives to be considered for the project. These opportunities will build on the early participation opportunities that were provided during the Alternatives Analysis process. In addition, you will be asked to:

- Provide input on the impact assessment methodologies and level of detail in your agency's area of expertise;
- Participate in coordination meetings, conference calls, and joint field reviews, as appropriate; and
- Review and comment on sections of the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Your agency does not have to accept this invitation. If, however, you elect not to become a participating agency, you must decline this invitation in writing, indicating that your agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, no expertise or information relevant to the project, and does not intend to submit comments on the project. The declination may be transmitted electronically to Mr. Ray Tellis of our Los Angeles Metropolitan Office at ray.tellis@dot.gov; please include the title of the official responding. In order to give your agency adequate opportunity to weigh the relevance of your participation in this environmental review process, written response to this invitation are not due until after the interagency scoping meeting. The interagency scoping meeting will be held on the following date and location:

- Thursday, March 26 at 1:30 p.m. at LACMTA, in the Gateway Plaza Room, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

You or your delegate is invited to represent your agency at this meeting. Your agency will be treated as participating agency unless your written response declining such designation as outlined above is transmitted not later than April 13, 2009.

¹ Designation as a "participation agency" does not imply that the participating agency supports the proposed project or has any jurisdiction over, or special expertise concerning the proposed project or its potential impacts. A "participating agency" differs from a "cooperating agency," which is defined in regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act as "any Federal agency other than a lead agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." [40 C.F.R. § 1508.5.](#)

We are providing scoping information materials with this letter that include description of the project area and proposed alternatives. The Scoping information is available at http://www.metro.net/projects_studies/connector. Additional information will be forthcoming during the scoping process. If you have questions regarding this invitation, please contact Ms. Dolores Roybal Saltarelli, AICP, Project Manager, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012, email address roybald@metro.net.

Sincerely,

Roger Snoble

LACMTA CEO

Enclosure (1):

1. Scoping Information Packet/Schedule

cc: Federal Transit Administration

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Title
Agency
Address
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- Review and comment on sections of the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to communicate any concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, the alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

If you elect to become a participating agency, you must accept this invitation in writing. The acceptance may be transmitted electronically to Ms. Dolores Roybal Saltarelli of LACMTA at roybald@metro.net; please include the title of the official responding. In order to give your agency adequate opportunity to weigh the relevance of your participation in this environmental review process, written responses to this invitation are not due until after the interagency scoping meeting. The interagency scoping meeting will be held on the following date and location:

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