



## West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor

### **Frequently Asked Questions: New WSAB Refined Northern Alignment Options**

*Why are these new refined Northern Alignment options being proposed? How did this come about?*

During the Public Scoping process conducted in June 2017, the WSAB Project Team received 1,122 written and oral comments from the public. A large portion of the comments contained specific concerns regarding the original Northern Alignment options in the downtown Los Angeles area, particularly in Little Tokyo, the Arts District and the Industrial District related to the proposed at-grade or aerial alignments along Alameda Street. In addition, High Speed Rail, Metrolink and the Federal Railroad Administration expressed concerns about how the proposed alternatives could affect existing or planned capacity for regional rail services at Union Station. In response to these comments and availability of updated technical information, the WSAB Project Team is revisiting and expanding the original Northern Alignment options.

*The original alignments all terminated at Union Station. Why is Metro looking at alignments that terminate elsewhere in downtown Los Angeles?*

Metro is taking this opportunity to assess where within downtown Los Angeles would serve where riders want to go, along with providing the greatest benefits in terms of connectivity to the transit network and accessibility to key employment and cultural destinations for riders from southeast Los Angeles County.

*Why are stations not shown for some of the new refined Northern Alignment options?*

The new Northern Alignment options are still very conceptual in nature. Exact alignment routes and potential station locations are to be determined during the focused Northern Alignment alternatives analysis.



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### *Are any studies being conducted on the Southern Alignment as well?*

Based on the Public Scoping Comments received, one of the considerations of the new refined Northern Alignment options is to assess how the project can link southeast Los Angeles County communities to downtown Los Angeles employment and cultural destinations. The environmental clearance document and associated analyses will include the entire project corridor. Concurrently, Metro is conducting a Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Strategic Implementation Plan for the entire corridor, and the TOC analysis has already begun on the southern alignment. Once the northern alignment options have been finalized, the Strategic Implementation Plan will include a unified vision for TOC implementation for the entire WSAB corridor. TOC is a holistic approach to coordinating Metro's transit investments in partnership with local agencies having land use planning authority.

### *What type of analysis will be conducted on the new refined Northern Alignment options and how do you determine which of the Northern Alignment options to move forward?*

The WSAB Project Team will conduct a variety of analyses related to the new refined Northern Alignment options including ridership, costs, impacts and constructability, among others. The results of these analyses will be a focused Northern Alignment alternatives analysis that will be presented to the Metro Board in late spring 2018 for review and a decision on which Northern Alignment options to carry forward in the environmental review process.

### *How will these new refined Northern Alignment options impact the project timeline?*

In late spring 2018, we anticipate the Metro Board will determine which Northern Alignment alternatives will be carried forward into the environmental process. Work continues on the Southern Alignment. Metro remains committed to moving this project forward as quickly as possible. Community update meetings and official public hearings will be held at key milestone points. The first groundbreaking date remains FY 2022, per the voter-approved Measure M. The



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project remains on schedule and Metro is actively pursuing opportunities to accelerate delivery of WSAB.

### *Is there any possibility of accelerating the project timeline?*

Yes, the WSAB Project Team is currently exploring Public Private Partnerships (P3) as the delivery method for this project which could possibly lead to cost and time savings. Additionally, this project has been included in the proposed “Twenty-Eight by ‘28” initiative as an aspirational project schedule to be completed early in time for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.

### *Does this mean that the original Northern Alignment options are no longer being considered for this project?*

No. The original Northern Alignment options are still under consideration and upon completion of the focused Northern Alignment alternatives analysis, will be evaluated in comparison to the new Northern Alignment options to determine which best meet the project’s goals, including:

1. Provide mobility improvements
2. Support local and regional land use plans and policies
3. Minimize environmental impacts
4. Ensure cost effectiveness and financial feasibility
5. Promote equity

### *Are there any opportunities for public comment on the new Northern Alignment options?*

Yes. Community update meetings will be held in March along the project corridor to provide the public with an update on the new Northern Alignment options, answer questions and obtain feedback. Public outreach and engagement efforts will continue throughout this process.