

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
FOR LOS ANGELES UNION STATION FORECOURT AND ESPLANADE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

DATE: August 11, 2017

TO: All Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT TITLE: The Los Angeles Union Station - Forecourt and Esplanade Improvements Draft EIR (SCH #2016121064)

FROM: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
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The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) will be the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000-21178 and California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3 Section 15000-15387) and has completed the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in accordance with CEQA for the proposed Los Angeles Union Station (LAUS) Forecourt and Esplanade Improvements (Project) (SCH #2016121064). The City of Los Angeles will be a responsible agency since many of the improvements will take place within City jurisdiction.

Metro has also secured federal funds for the design and construction of selected project elements, which requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), acting on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), will serve as the Federal Lead Agency for the evaluation of the project, consistent with the provisions of 23 Code of Federal Regulations §771.117.

This Notice of Availability (NOA) provides information describing the Project and the potential environmental effects. The Draft EIR describes the goals and objectives, baseline environmental conditions in the project study area, potential significant environmental effects associated with implementation of the Project, feasible mitigation measures, and alternatives.

The purpose of this NOA is to notify agencies, organizations, and individuals that Metro has prepared a Draft EIR pursuant to CEQA for the Project, and to request input on the environmental analysis. From public agencies, Metro is requesting comments on the content of the environmental information that is germane to each agency's statutory responsibilities with regards to the Project. Metro is also requesting interested individuals' or organizations' views.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The project site is located in the City of Los Angeles, in the northern portion of the downtown area. The Project is partially located within and adjacent to the western margin of LAUS, located at 800 North Alameda Street, City of Los Angeles, California 90012. LAUS is located on the U.S. Geological Survey Los Angeles 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. The LAUS property is generally bounded by Highway 101 to the south, Alameda Street to the west, Cesar E. Chavez Avenue to the north, and Vignes Street to the east. However, the project site is generally bounded by Spring Street to the west, Cesar E. Chavez

Avenue to the north, Alameda Street and Union Station Forecourt to the east and Arcadia Street to the south. Specific project elements are located on Alameda Street from Arcadia Street in the south to Cesar Chavez Street in the north, Arcadia Street from Alameda Street to Spring Street, Los Angeles Street from El Pueblo de Los Angeles to LAUS, and the Union Station Forecourt area. Adjacent to the project to the west are the Chinese American Museum at 425 North Los Angeles Street, El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park at 125 Paseo De La Plaza, and the Avila Adobe Museum at 10 Olvera Street.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Project will focus on perimeter improvements to enhance pedestrian accessibility, safety, and connectivity. The proposed improvements to LAUS include removing the short-term parking northwest of the entrance to LAUS (approximately 60 spaces) to create a new civic plaza with an outdoor seating area; creating a new esplanade along Alameda Street (between Cesar E. Chavez Avenue and Arcadia) by narrowing the roadway and reallocating roadway area for the expanded pedestrian and bicyclist multi-use esplanade on the eastside and widened sidewalks on the west; reconfiguring the entrance from LAUS to the El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park by creating a consolidated crosswalk that would provide pedestrian safety and additional connectivity through the partial closure of Los Angeles Street and closure of the northern LAUS driveway on Alameda Street; and repurposing the northernmost travel lane on Arcadia Street (adjacent to El Pueblo) between Alameda Street and Spring Street into a tour bus parking area designated for El Pueblo.

In addition to the above-mentioned improvements, the proposed Alameda Esplanade would: change three travel lanes in each direction and a left turn center lane to two lanes of travel with a left turn lane/center median and curb side drop-off on the east side of Alameda Street; and expand sidewalks on both sides of the street into the roadway and create a shared tree-lined multi-use path for both bicyclists and pedestrians on the east side of Alameda Street. The Project will consist of four general project components; the Alameda Street Improvements, the Forecourt Improvements, the partial closure of Los Angeles Street, and repurposing a travel lane on Arcadia Street.

## **LOCAL PLANNING**

The Project is located within two City of Los Angeles planning areas with Alameda Street as the boundary: Central City North Community Plan and Central City Community Plan. The Central City North Community Plan includes the project areas west of Alameda Street, and the Central City Community Plan includes the project areas east of Alameda Street. Both Central City North Community Plan and Central City Community Plan are in the process of being updated by the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning through DTLA 2040.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

The Draft EIR analyzed all eighteen (18) issue areas: Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology, Hazards, Hydrology, Land Use, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation and Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems. Significant impacts were identified with regard to biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, and transportation and traffic. The one mitigation measure for biological resources, four mitigation measures for hazards and hazardous materials, and four mitigation measures for cultural resources would reduce the impact for those resource areas to below the level of significance. Even with mitigation, impacts from transportation and traffic would remain significant and unavoidable.

## **PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD**

In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines §21091, the Draft EIR will be available to the public review and comment for a 45-day period. During the public review period interested individuals, organizations, and agencies can provide written comments. All comments should be directed to Metro via US Mail or email:

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Elizabeth Carvajal, Metro Senior Manager  
LAUS Forecourt and Esplanade Improvements  
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-23-4  
Los Angeles, California, 90012-2952  
Email: CarvajalE@Metro.net

The Draft EIR will be available for review at three locations:

Los Angeles Main Library  
630 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

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

The Metro project website:

<https://www.metro.net/about/union-station/la-union-station-forecourt-and-esplanade/>

Metro will receive written public input on the Draft EIR during the public comment period which extends from August 11 to September 25, 2017. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your comment must be sent to Metro at the earliest possible date, but no later than September 25, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. The agency response to this Draft EIR should include the name of the contact person with the commenting agency.

## **PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

Metro is planning on conducting a public workshop during circulation of the Draft EIR for public review. Oral translations will be available at the open house meetings, and meeting materials will also be translated into Spanish and Mandarin. Translation services for other languages and other ADA accommodations can be made available upon request by calling 213.922.2499 at least 72 hours in advance.

The open house meeting is scheduled and will be held at Metro Headquarters, One Gateway Plaza, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012, an ADA accessible facility, on Wednesday September 13, 2017 between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Should the date, time, and location of the meeting be modified, a notice will be publicized via the project website, Facebook, and Twitter. Public input is anticipated via comment cards provided at the meeting, but Metro will also accept letters and emails to the addresses noted above.

For any questions, comments, and feedback, stakeholders can contact Elizabeth Carvajal at Metro either by mail, phone, or email:

One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-23-4, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: 213-922-3084  
CarvajalE@metro.net

Metro requests public agencies' views on the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities. Please send your agency's written response by September 25, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., to the address indicated above.