What is the Division 20 Portal Widening and Turnback Facility Project?

Formerly known as the Red/Purple Line Core Capacity Improvements Project, the Division 20 Portal Widening and Turnback Facility Project proposes to accommodate increased service levels on the Metro Red and Purple Lines by making operational rail enhancements in the existing Division 20 rail yard. Planned improvements include: widening the heavy rail tunnel south of U.S. Highway 101 (Portal Widening), the development of a new, surface-level turnback facility (Turnback Facility), and the reconfiguration of the rail storage track.

The current project is located within the existing Metro rail yard, along the west side of the Los Angeles River, bound by U.S. Highway 101 to the north, Center St and Santa Fe Av to the west, and the 6th St Bridge to the south.

Why is the project necessary?

Metro Red and Purple Lines carry over 140,000 passengers each day with ridership anticipated to grow by 49,000 following the new Purple Line extension to the Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Medical Center. Core project improvements, new track and switches will provide use of the new turnback, allow for increased headways, ensure reliable operations, improve operating safety of the Metro Rail system, and increase storage capacity for the Purple Line.

Why is the project going through an EIR process?

Due to significant design refinements since the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), finalized in March 2017, Metro will conduct an environmental review process and document all findings in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as required under the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

What issues will be studied?

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.

Will there be any property acquisitions?

The project proposes the acquisition of property just south of Commercial St to widen the portal, as well as property immediately north of 1st St, just west of the existing rail corridor, in order to provide storage capacity. Metro will work with all affected property owners in accordance with state law.
What is the EIR Timeline?

How do I become involved in the process?

Scoping is the first step in the environmental review process and interested parties are encouraged to participate.

If you were unable to attend the scoping meetings and would still like to provide public comment, a second Notice of Preparation period has been initiated and comments are welcome via email and regular mail (see contact information). You may also receive project updates and notifications by joining our mailing list at metro.net/capitalprojects under the “Division 20” tab.

The public will be notified when the Draft EIR is available and the document will be circulated for public comment prior to approval of the Final EIR. Interested parties are encouraged to participate in the future public hearings to provide comment on the Draft EIR.

When will the scoping comment period begin and end?

Due to the second Notice of Preparation, additional Public Scoping comments will be received from Wednesday, January 3, 2018, through Friday, February 2, 2018. All comments received will be documented in the Scoping Report. Comments may be submitted via mail or email to the following:

- Cris B. Liban
  Executive Officer, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability
  Metro
  One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-16-9
  Los Angeles, CA 90012
  libane@metro.net
  metro.net/capitalprojects

Stay Connected

Please use the following contact tools to access additional project information, ask questions or provide comments.

- Michael Cortez, Community Relations Manager
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