STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit

Gavin Newsom
Governor

Kate Gordon
Director

Memorandum

Date: December 2, 2020

To: All Reviewing Agencies

From: Scott Morgan, Director

Re: SCH # **2019060110**
North Hollywood to Pasadena Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Project

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The Lead Agency has *extended* the review period for the above referenced project to **December 28, 2020** to accommodate the review process. All other project information remains the same.

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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Metro

UPDATED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: December 2, 2020

TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Updated Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT TITLE: North Hollywood to Pasadena Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Project

SCH NUMBER: 2019060110

FROM: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), as Lead Agency, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the North Hollywood to Pasadena Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Project (Proposed Project). This notice provides the public, responsible agencies, and other interested parties with a summary of the Proposed Project, and information regarding the availability of the Draft EIR including updated review period dates.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Proposed Project extends approximately 18 miles from the North Hollywood Metro B/G Line (Red/Orange) Station on the west to Pasadena City College on the east, as shown in **Figure 1**. The Proposed Project would generally include dedicated bus lanes where there is adequate existing street width, while operating in mixed traffic within the City of Pasadena. BRT service would operate in various configurations depending upon the characteristics of the roadways. BRT is intended to move large numbers of people quickly and efficiently to their destinations. The Proposed Project would provide enhanced transit service and improve regional connectivity and mobility by implementing several key BRT elements, including dedicated bus lanes on city streets, transit signal priority (TSP), and enhanced stations with all-door boarding. TSP facilitates buses through signalized intersections and improves transit travel times and reliability.

Route options for the Proposed Project and bus lane configurations are evaluated in the Draft EIR in response to input received during completion of the Alternatives Analysis and the EIR scoping period. It was not possible to reach a consensus on one route preferred by Metro, the cities, stakeholders, and general public. Metro determined that stakeholders would best be informed about the Proposed Project by equally evaluating the potential environmental impacts of multiple routes in the Draft EIR.

PROJECT LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: The BRT corridor generally parallels the Ventura Freeway (State Route 134) between the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys and traverses the communities of North Hollywood and Eagle Rock in the City of Los Angeles as well as the Cities of Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena. Potential connections with existing high-capacity transit services include the Metro B/G Lines (Red/Orange) in North Hollywood, the Metrolink Antelope Valley and Ventura Lines in Burbank, and the Metro L Line (Gold) in Pasadena. The Study Area includes several dense residential areas as well as many cultural, entertainment, shopping and employment centers, including the North Hollywood Arts District, Burbank Media District, Downtown Burbank, Downtown Glendale, Eagle Rock, Old Pasadena and Pasadena City College.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: The Proposed Project would provide improved and reliable transit service to meet the mobility needs of residents, employees, and visitors who travel within the corridor. Objectives of the Proposed Project include:

- Advance a premium transit service that is more competitive with auto travel.
- Improve accessibility for disadvantaged communities.
- Improve transit access to major local and regional activity and employment centers.
- Enhance connectivity to Metro and other regional transit services.
- Provide improved passenger comfort and convenience.
- Support community plans and transit-oriented community goals.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIR includes an assessment of each environmental topic identified in the CEQA Guidelines. Based on the Proposed Project description and location, the Draft EIR focuses on the following key impact areas: Transportation, Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Noise, and Tribal Cultural Resources. An assessment of other environmental topics such as Land Use is also included in the Draft EIR, although with less detail than the assessment of focused topics.

The Draft EIR did not identify any environmental resources to which the Proposed Project would have the potential to create significant unavoidable impacts.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: October 26, 2020 to December 28, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARING: Metro conducted public hearings to take testimony on the Draft EIR on November 12 and 14, 2020. Presentations may be viewed or listened to at metro.net/nohopasbrt.

COMMENTS: Comments on the Draft EIR may be submitted in writing or orally during the public hearings. Written comments should be sent to Metro on or before December 28, 2020 at the postal address or e-mail address shown below or submitted via an online comment form found on the project website at metro.net/nohopasbrt. You may also call the North Hollywood Pasadena BRT Corridor Project hotline number at (213) 418-3228 and leave a message.

Scott Hartwell, Project Manager
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Email: nohopasbrt@metro.net

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Draft EIR is available for review at the website https://www.metro.net/projects/noho-pasadena-corridor/ and at the following locations:

- Eagle Rock City Hall, 2035 Colorado Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90041
- Burbank City Hall, 275 E. Olive Ave, Burbank, CA 91502
- Pasadena City Hall, 100 Garfield Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101
- Metro Headquarters Library (One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012) – by appointment only. Please email library@metro.net to schedule an appointment.

ADA REQUIREMENTS: Upon request, sign language interpretation, materials in alternative formats, and other accommodations are available to the public for Metro-sponsored meetings and events. All requests for reasonable accommodations, interpretation services, and materials in other languages must be made at least three working days (72 hours) prior to the scheduled meeting date. Please submit requests by calling (323) 466-3876 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our TDD line is (800) 252-9040. Individuals with hearing or speech impairment may use California Relay Service 711 + Metro phone number.

Figure 1: Proposed Project with Route Options

