

Notice of Availability
For Link Union Station (Link US) Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Supplemental Environmental Impact Report

Date: June 21, 2024

To: All Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and Open House/Public Hearing

Project Title: Link Union Station (Link US) Project

SCH Number: 2016051071

From: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Carlos J. Montez, Deputy Executive Officer
One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is issuing this notice to advise the public of the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIS/SEIR) and Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Link Union Station Project (Link US or Project). The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is the lead agency for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal environmental laws for the Project. Metro is the joint lead agency under NEPA, project sponsor, and lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by NEPA and most applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being or have been carried out by the State of California pursuant to 23 United States Code 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated July 23, 2019, and executed by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the State of California. Under that MOU, CHSRA is the project's lead agency under NEPA. Prior to the July 23, 2019, MOU, the FRA was the federal lead agency.

DATES: The 45 day-public review and comment period will begin on June 21, 2024 and end on August 9, 2024.

ADDRESSES: See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for addresses where to obtain copies of the Draft EIS/SEIR and draft Section 4(f) Evaluation. They are also available online at www.linkunionstation.com.

PROJECT LOCATION: Los Angeles Union Station (LAUS) is located at 800 Alameda Street in the City of Los Angeles, California. LAUS is bounded by US-101 to the south, Alameda Street to the west, Cesar Chavez Avenue to the north, and Vignes Street to the east. The Project extends from the northern terminus at North Main Street to the southern terminus south of First Street in the City of Los Angeles.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Link US Project is proposed to address existing capacity constraints at LAUS. The Project consists of transforming LAUS from a stub end tracks station into a run-through tracks station by extending ten platform tracks south of LAUS Platforms 2 through 6 to merge into a minimum of four tracks onto a viaduct over US-101 viaduct that would continue south to connect to mainline tracks along the west bank of the Los Angeles River, replacing the existing pedestrian passageway under the LAUS platforms and tracks with a new expanded passageway, and establishing 10 new run-through

tracks for regional/intercity trains and future high-speed rail trains south of LAUS. The Project also includes off-site railroad improvements to BNSF Railway's Malabar Yard in the City of Vernon. The Malabar Yard railroad improvements consist of the closure of the 49th Street at-grade railroad crossing and a new track connection between two existing track segments along 46th Street in the City of Vernon.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIS/SEIR has been prepared by CHSRA, as NEPA lead agency, and Metro, as CEQA lead agency, to analyze the potential environmental effects of the Project and to identify mitigation measures that would avoid, minimize, or mitigate for potential adverse effects. The Draft EIS/SEIR includes an evaluation of the Project (Build Alternative [the Preferred Alternative] and Malabar Yard railroad improvements) as well as a No Action Alternative. The Draft EIS/SEIR includes an analysis for the following environmental resource areas: Land Use & Planning, Transportation, Visual Quality & Aesthetics, Air Quality & Global Climate Change, Noise & Vibration, Biological & Wetland Resources, Floodplains, Hydrology, & Water Quality, Geology, Soils, & Seismicity, Hazardous Waste & Materials, Public Utilities & Energy, Cultural & Paleontological Resources, Economic & Fiscal Impacts, Safety & Security, Socioeconomics & Communities Affected, Environmental Justice, and Section 4(f).

After implementation of applicable mitigation measures, the Project (Build Alternative and Malabar Yard railroad improvements) would result in adverse effects on the following resources areas: Noise (construction related impacts) and Cultural and Paleontological Resources (construction-related impacts that would remain throughout operations), Transportation (operations related impacts), Safety and Security (operations related impacts), and Socioeconomics and Communities Affected (operations related impacts). All other environmental effects of the Project (Build Alternative and Malabar Yard railroad improvements) would be reduced with implementation of mitigation measures. The preliminary Section 4(f) determinations found the Build Alternative would result in the permanent use of three historic sites (Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal, Vignes Street Undercrossing, and North Main Street Bridge), and it would result in a temporary occupancy at Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SITES: The Project site is located on sites listed under California Government Code Section 65962.5. A total of 13 Recognized Environmental Conditions sites have been identified with a Moderate to High risk ranking that have the potential to affect the environment as a result of excavation activities associated with Project-related construction.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Draft EIS/SEIR will be available on Metro's website at www.linkunionstation.com. Electronic and paper copies of the Draft EIS/SEIR may be requested from the Records Management Center (Address: One Gateway Plaza, Plaza Level, Los Angeles, CA 90012; Email: rmc@metro.net; Phone: 213.922.2883). Hard copies of the Executive Summary and electronic copies of the entire Draft EIS/SEIR with accompanying appendices will also be available for public viewing at the following locations:

LA Central Public Library – Downtown
630 W. 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(Hard copy of Executive Summary available in English and Spanish)

Chinatown Branch Library
639 N. Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(Hard copy of Executive Summary available in English, Spanish, and Chinese)

Benjamin Franklin Branch Library
2200 E. 1st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90033
(Hard copy of Executive Summary available in English and Spanish)

Lincoln Heights Branch Library
2530 Workman Street
Los Angeles, CA 90031
(Hard copy of Executive Summary available in English, Spanish, and Chinese)

Little Tokyo Branch Library
203 S. Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(Hard copy of Executive Summary available in English, Spanish, Korean, and Japanese)

LA Union Station/Metro Library
One Gateway Plaza, 15th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90012
(Hard copy of the Draft EIS/SEIR and appendices available in English and hard copy of Executive Summary in English and Spanish)

Care First Village Administrative Office
1060 North Vignes Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(Hard copy of Executive Summary available in English, Spanish, Khmer, and Vietnamese)

William Mead Homes Administrative Office
1300 North Cardinal Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(Hard copy of Executive Summary available in English, Spanish, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Khmer, and Vietnamese)

LA Union Station/Metro Records Management Center
One Gateway Plaza, Plaza Level, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(Hard copy of Executive Summary in English and Spanish)

Vernon City Hall
4305 Santa Fe Avenue, Vernon, CA 90058
(Hard copy of Executive Summary available in
English and Spanish)

PROVIDING COMMENTS: Interested persons should send written comments to Attn: Carlos J. Montez, Deputy Executive Officer, One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-18-2, Los Angeles, CA 90012; via email at LinkUnionStation@metro.net; or via online comment form at www.linkunionstation.com. If comments are provided via email, please include “Link US – Draft EIS/SEIR” in the subject line, attach comments in Microsoft Word format, and include the commenter’s United States (U.S.) Postal Service mailing address. All comments are public records and may be publicly posted; do not transmit private information. **All public comments must be received by 5:00 PM on August 9, 2024** to ensure incorporation into the Final EIS/SEIR.

OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC HEARING: Metro will hold an open house and public hearing to explain the Project and the Draft EIS/SEIR analysis. Comments from the public may be submitted at the public hearing via comment card or court reporter. Information regarding the open house and public hearing is provided below.

Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Metro Headquarters, One Gateway Plaza, Board Room, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Zoom (Webinar) Open to Public: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89642763819>

All Metro meetings are held in ADA accessible facilities. Spanish, Chinese, and Japanese translation will be provided. Other ADA accommodations and translations are available by calling 213.922.2524 at least 72 hours in advance.