

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)
One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-02
Los Angeles, CA 90012

County Clerk
County of Los Angeles
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

Project Title: Regional Integration of Intelligent Transportation Systems Redundancy Project from El Monte Busway to East Commercial Street (RIITS Redundancy Project or project)

Project Applicant: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Project Location - Specific:

Fiber optic conduit installation from El Monte Busway south of Union Station southeasterly under US 101 within the Caltrans right-of-way (ROW), to East Commercial Street and then west and south along the US 101 onramp ROW. A connection would also be made to an existing pull-box to the east. Minor modifications would be made at the northeast corner of North Alameda Street and East Commercial Street.

Project Location - City: City of Los Angeles **Project Location - County:** County of Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

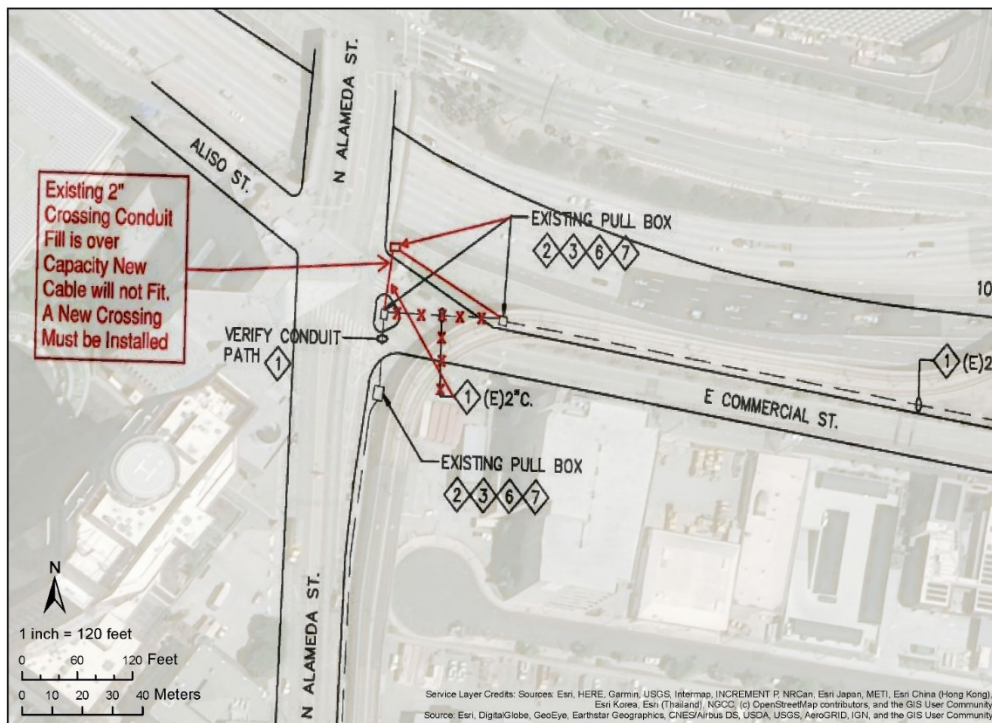
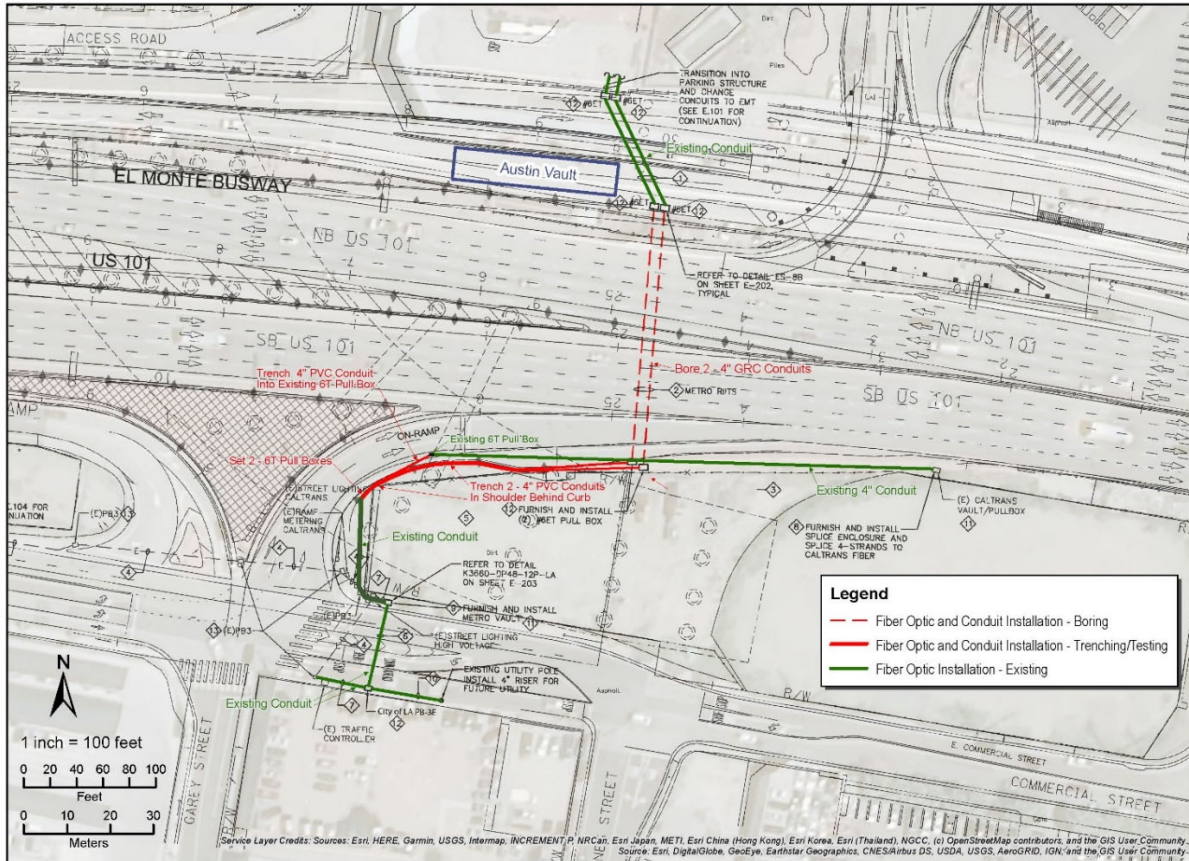
Regional Integration of Intelligent Transportation Systems (RIITS) is a multi-agency program that is administered by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA or Metro) on behalf of transportation agencies in Southern California. Partners within RIITS include LACMTA, Caltrans District 7, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT). All RIITS partner agencies participated in the design of this project. The project scope requires encroachment permit approval through Caltrans.

Metro proposes to install RIITS fiber optic cable; perform splicing, termination, and testing of the fiber optic cable; and install communication conduits, pull boxes, and vaults as part of the RIITS Redundancy Project. The proposed fiber optic conduit across US 101 would be an independent utility and connect Metro Headquarters to the Metro Emergency Operations Center (in development) across the freeway. RIITS would provide a redundant fiber optic cable to Caltrans for regional connections of transportation data and to LADOT for their operations at Piper Technical Center close to Metro Headquarters. The RIITS fiber optic cable would connect and serve existing intelligent transportation systems for the Express Lanes and the Union Station/Patsaouras Plaza El Monte Busway. The installation of RIITS would connect the Central Server Hub at Union Station Gateway, across US 101 to Caltrans boxes, and further south to LADOT's control boxes at East Commercial Street. The project will provide redundant connections among the existing intelligent transportation systems used by Caltrans, Metro, LADOT, and other jurisdictions. This redundancy project provides an extra layer of connectivity and by definition is not dependent on any other actions or projects to be implemented.

The project will include the following activities beginning at the terminus of the previously installed fiber optic conduit at the El Monte Busway south of Union Station and north of US 101:

- Boring under the US 101 freeway to a depth of four feet with associated 4 x 4 x 4 foot bore pit north of US 101 and 4 x 4 x 13 foot receiving pit south of US 101, to install two 4-inch conduits with fiber optic cable and associated pull boxes and vaults up to approximately four feet deep.
- Installation of approximately 370 linear feet of fiber optic cable through existing conduit, between existing Caltrans pull boxes on the south side of the US 101 within Caltrans ROW. This would involve no ground-disturbing activity.
- Installation of approximately 220 linear feet of two 4-inch conduit with fiber optic cable by excavating an approximately 12-inch wide, 36-inch deep trench and installation of two 4 x 4 x 4-foot pull boxes along the southbound US 101 on-ramp shoulder behind the curb within Caltrans ROW.
- Installation of approximately 64 linear feet of one 4-inch conduit with fiber optic cable by excavating an approximately 6-inch wide, 36-inch deep trench within Caltrans ROW.
- Replacement of approximately 175 feet of fiber optic cable in existing conduit between two existing pull boxes on the north side of East Commercial Street at North Alameda Street. No ground disturbance would occur at this location.

Horizontal drilling/boring will be used under US 101 because open trenching across US 101 would require freeway closure and adversely affect traffic circulation and operation of US 101. Construction methods include pulling RIITS fiber optic line through existing conduit where available, which would include no ground-disturbing work. Metro will use excavation methods in the remaining area parallel to the US 101 in which existing conduit does not exist. This work would include concrete and asphalt removal, mechanical trenching of the conduit alignment, and mechanical excavation for pull boxes. At each area of excavation, a backhoe will be used to remove fill down to native soils, after which mechanical excavations will continue in shallow lifts to the desired depth. The installation activities are expected to last no more than two weeks. The following two figures illustrate the extent of the project.



Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Sec. 21080.21 (a) and (b). Application of Division to Public Right-Of-Way Pipeline Projects Less Than One Mile in Length

Reasons why project is exempt:

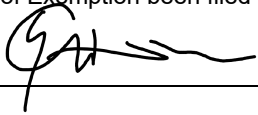
According to Public Resources Code (PRC) section 21080.21 (a), CEQA does not apply to public right-of-way pipeline projects of less than one mile in length within a public street or highway or any other public right-of-way for the installation of a new pipeline or the maintenance, repair, restoration, reconditioning, relocation, replacement, removal, or demolition of an existing pipeline. For purposes of this section, "pipeline" includes subsurface facilities but does not include any surface facility related to the operation of the underground facility. As the project is installation of subsurface conduit to accommodate fiber optic cable and is less than one mile in length, it qualifies as a pipeline project that would be statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to PRC Section 21080.21(a).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Emmanuel 'Cris' Liban **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 213.922.2471

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  **Date:** 05/12/21 **Title:** Chief Sustainability Officer

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 2108.3 and c, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.