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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: April 18, 2022
TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties
SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report
PROJECT TITLE: Metro's Transportation Communication Network
FROM: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) proposes to implement the Transportation Communication Network (TCN) Program (Project or TCN Program), which would provide a network of structures with digital displays (TCN Structures) that would incorporate intelligent technology components to promote roadway efficiency, improve public safety, augment Metro's communication capability, provide for outdoor advertising where revenues would fund new and expanded transportation programs consistent with the goals of the Metro 2028 Vision Plan, and result in an overall reduction in static signage displays throughout the City of Los Angeles (City). Metro is the lead agency in the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statutes and guidelines, as amended. The purpose of the Draft EIR is to evaluate the potential for environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Project, and to provide mitigation measures where required.

The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to notify agencies, organizations and individuals that Metro plans to prepare a Draft EIR and to request input on the environmental analysis to be performed. Metro is requesting comments from public agencies on the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to their statutory responsibilities with regard to the proposed Project, in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15082(b). Metro is also inviting organizations and interested parties to submit comments on the scope of the Draft EIR.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: As summarized above, Metro proposes to implement the TCN Program, which would provide a network of TCN Structures that would incorporate intelligent technology components to promote roadway efficiency, improve public safety, increase communication, and provide for outdoor advertising that would be used to fund new and expanded transportation programs consistent with the goals of the Metro Vision 2028 Plan. The TCN Program also includes the removal of existing static signage throughout the City. Implementation of the Project would include the installation of up to 34 Freeway-Facing TCN Structures and 22 Non-Freeway Facing TCN Structures, all on Metro-owned property and shown on Figures 1 through 3. The total maximum amount of digital signage associated with the TCN Structures would be up to approximately 65,000 square feet. As part of implementation of the TCN Structures, a take-down program would also be implemented whereby existing static displays would be removed. Signage to be removed would include approximately 200 static displays on Metro-owned property located within the City. The City would establish a Zoning Ordinance that would provide a mechanism to review and approve the TCN Structures citywide. The Zoning Ordinance would regulate the

location, operation, design, take-down program and community benefits of the TCN Structures. The Zoning Ordinance would also impose digital display and illumination standards to support the TCN Structures.

PROJECT LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: The site locations for the TCN Structures (Site Locations) are located within property owned and operated by Metro along freeways and major streets, within the City. Some of the Site Locations currently contain existing static displays. The majority of the Site Locations are located on vacant land with limited vegetation and are generally inaccessible to the public. Further, the proposed sites are used primarily for Metro operations which include rail corridors, stations, parking, bus depots, and equipment lots. The Site Locations are located within the Central City North, Silver Lake–Echo Park–Elysian Valley, Sherman Oaks–Studio City–Toluca Lake–Cahuenga Pass, North East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, Central City, North Hollywood–Village Valley, Sun Valley–La Tuna Canyon, Arleta–Pacoima, Granada Hills–Knollwood, Sylmar, Encino–Tarzana, and West Los Angeles Community Plan areas and are generally designated and zoned for commercial, public facilities, and manufacturing uses. No Site Locations are zoned for residential use.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The purpose of the Draft EIR is to disclose the impacts of the proposed Project on the environment. Based on the Initial Study prepared for the Project, the Draft EIR will address the potential impacts associated with the following environmental topics listed in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines:

- Aesthetics
- Air quality
- Biological resources
- Cultural and historic resources
- Energy
- Geology and soils
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Hazards and hazardous materials
- Land use and planning
- Noise
- Transportation
- Tribal cultural resources
- Utilities and service systems

Mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts during construction and operation of the Project will also be identified in the Draft EIR. A copy of the Initial Study together with this NOP is available at metro.net/tcn.

SCOPING MEETING: Virtual public scoping meetings to accept both digital and oral comments on the scope of the Draft EIR will be held on May 19, 2022 and May 21, 2022. The meeting access information is provided below:

Thursday, May 19, 2022: 5 p.m.–6 p.m.
Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83177691752>
Meeting ID: 831 7769 1752

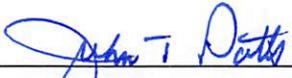
Saturday, May 21, 2022: 10 a.m.–11 a.m.
Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88651515789>
Meeting ID: 886 5151 5789

The scope of the Draft EIR, project description and the environmental impacts to be evaluated will be presented at the scoping meeting. Attendees are invited to call 213-922-3410 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting for more information, to arrange ADA accommodations and/or to request additional translation support.

COMMENT DUE DATE: A 45-day comment period for this NOP will begin on April 18, 2022, and conclude on June 1, 2022. Written comments on the scope of the Draft EIR, including the Project area and description, the impacts to be evaluated, and the methodologies to be used in the evaluation, will be accepted during the comment period and should be sent to Metro by 11:59 pm PST on **June 1, 2022**, at the postal address or e-mail address below.

ADDRESSES: Written or electronic (e-mail) comments may be sent to Shine Ling, Metro, One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 22-9, Los Angeles, CA 90012, or via email to tcn@metro.net.

For more information, please visit metro.net/tcn, or please call 213-922-3410.

Signature: 
Title: EXECUTIVE OFFICER REAL ESTATE
LA METRO
Date: 4/14/22

Puede obtener información en Español acerca de esta junta llamando al 213-922-3410.

Attachments:

- Figure 1: Regional Project Location Map—North
- Figure 2: Regional Project Location Map—South
- Figure 3: Regional Project Location Map—Downtown

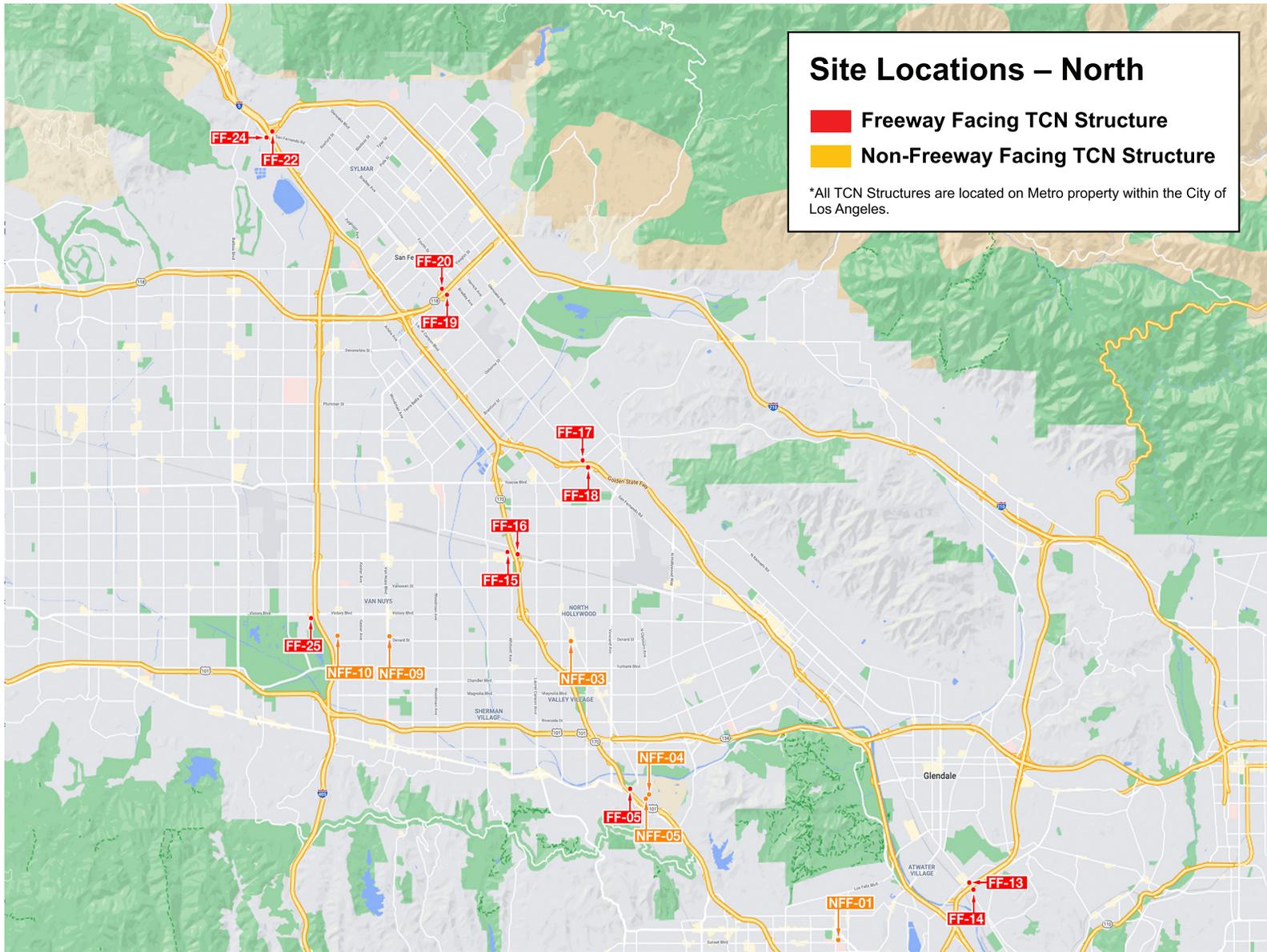


Figure 1
Regional Project Location Map – North

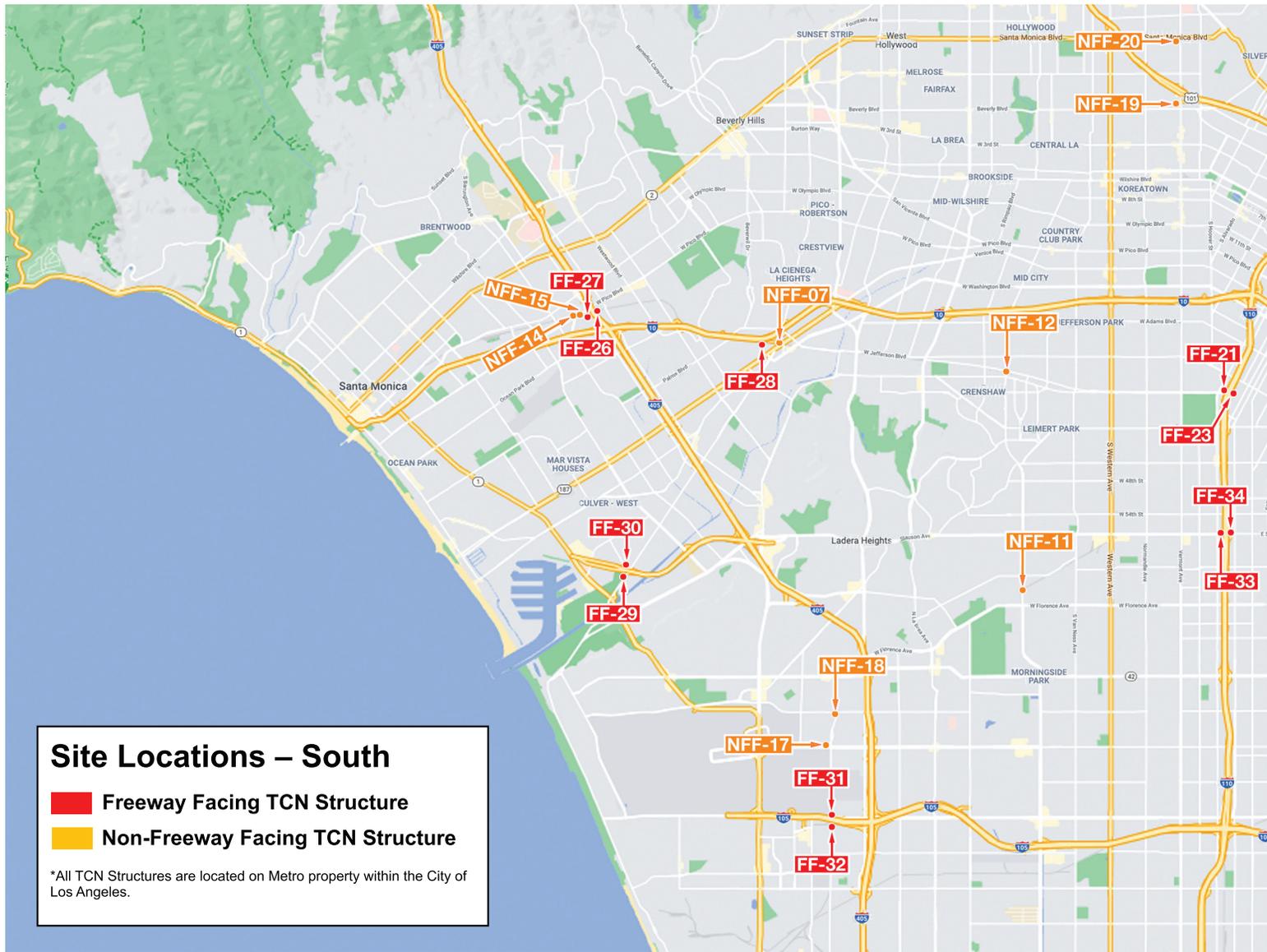


Figure 2
Regional Project Location Map – South



Figure 3
Regional Project Location Map – Downtown