



Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, July 5, 2022

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Members of the Public

PROJECT: Tunnel to Ontario International Airport Project

The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) is the lead agency in preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Tunnel to Ontario International Airport (proposed Project). Partner agencies include the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Ontario International Airport Authority (OIAA) and the cities of Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga. Pursuant to CEQA, notice is hereby given to the Office of Planning and Research, the County Clerk, interested agencies, organizations, and the general public about the preparation of the Draft EIR.

The Draft EIR will evaluate the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the proposed Project and provide mitigation measures where required. The public is invited to attend a public meeting being held in July 2022 as shown below, to provide comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR, including environmental issues that should be addressed in the Draft EIR.

Project Location: The proposed Project to be evaluated in the Draft EIR involves the construction of a single tunnel (24-foot bi-directional tunnel) between the Cucamonga Metrolink Station and Ontario International Airport (ONT) via Milliken Avenue and Airport Drive as shown in **Figure 1**.

Project Background: In a 2014 study, the then-San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG)/now SBCTA, identified the need for a direct rail-to-airport connection to ONT to support its projected growth. ONT is one of the fastest growing commercial airports in the United States, with 5.6 million annual passengers in 2019. It is estimated that passenger traffic at ONT would range between 14 to 33 million annual passengers by 2045. As a result, airport access would need to be expanded to support projected passenger capacity at ONT.

Project Objectives:

- Provide a direct rail-to-airport connection from the Cucamonga Metrolink Station to ONT to support its projected growth;
- Increase mobility and connectivity for transit patrons, improve access to existing transportation services, and accommodate substantial future employment and population growth;
- Expand access options to ONT by providing a convenient and direct connection between ONT and the Southern California Regional Rail network for air passengers and employees;
- Encourage a mode shift to transit from single-occupancy vehicles using the surrounding road network for travel to and from ONT;
- Support near-term and long-term projected passenger and job growth at ONT;
- Support autonomous electric vehicle technology usage for transit projects;
- Demonstrate the application of innovative, cost-effective tunneling construction techniques; and to
- Expand employee operations, provide direct, last-mile connections to nearby Metrolink stations, and to increase passenger capacity.

Project Description: SBCTA has proposed to construct a 4.2-mile-long single bi-directional tunnel (24-foot bi-directional tunnel) directly connecting the Cucamonga Metrolink Station to ONT. Tunnel boring would occur up to 60 feet below the ground surface. The proposed tunnel alignment begins at the Cucamonga Metrolink Station adjacent to Milliken Avenue in the City of Rancho Cucamonga. Autonomous electric vehicles would enter the main artery tunnel via a ramp from the Cucamonga Station located within the existing Metrolink station parking lot. The tunnel alignment would continue south generally under Milliken Avenue. At Ontario Mills Parkway, the tunnel would shift east, to avoid the I-10 overcrossing structure, and then shift back under Milliken Avenue, running southwest to clear the Ontario Municipal Utilities Company (OMUC) water tanks in the southeast quadrant of the I-10/Milliken Avenue interchange. The tunnel would begin curving west at Guasti Road to avoid the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) overcrossing bridge, connecting to Airport Drive east of Milliken Avenue. The proposed tunnel would then generally run under Airport Drive before terminating at ONT. At the airport, vehicles would emerge via ramps and drive to drop-off points near Terminal 2 or Terminal 4.

The proposed Project includes three passenger stations (**Figure 1**). One station would be located in the northwest corner of the existing Cucamonga Metrolink Station parking lot, which is owned and maintained by the City of Rancho Cucamonga. The proposed station would be an at-grade station plaza that would be constructed and integrated with an adjacent maintenance facility. The other two proposed stations are at ONT within the existing parking lots located across from Terminals 2 and 4 and would be at-grade connecting to their associated tunnel portals along Terminal Way. A tunnel egress shaft would be located adjacent to I-10.

Public Meeting: SBCTA invites all interested members of the public to attend a virtual public meeting and provide oral and written comments on issues related to potential environmental impacts. A court reporter will be present to capture all comments made, and Spanish translation services will also be available. The virtual public meeting is on July 20, 2022 starting at 6 pm and ending at 7 pm. The zoom meeting registration link is: <https://bit.ly/SBCTATunnelPublicMeeting>

Public Comments: A 30-day scoping comment period, which will commence on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, and will conclude at 5 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2022. Written comments should be addressed to:

Victor Lopez, Project Manager
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
1170 W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92410-1715
Please send emails to: info@goSBCTA.com

All comments received during the scoping period will be considered by SBCTA, compiled in a scoping report and appended to the Draft EIR. After preparation of the Draft EIR, it will be released for public review and comment. Separate notices advising on the availability of the Draft EIR and details of a public hearing for the proposed Project will be released at later dates.

Project information is available for public review at 1170 W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, California, 92410-1715 and online at www.goSBCTA.com/ONTLoop. If there are any questions regarding this notice, or if you would like to review the project information or receive copies of available documents, please contact Victor Lopez, Project Manager via email at info@goSBCTA.com.



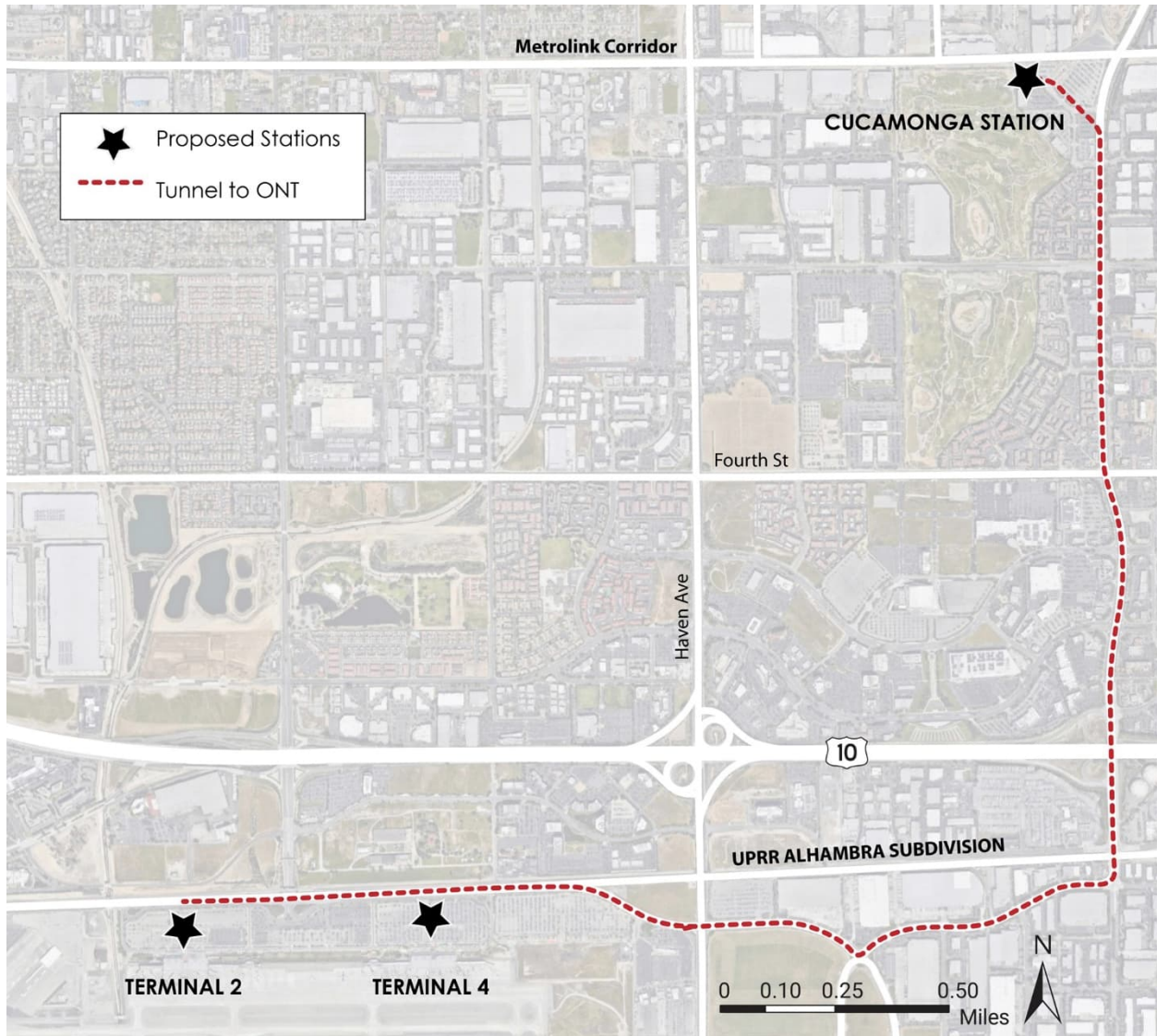
Signature

Victor Lopez
Print Name

July 5, 2022
Date

Project Manager
Title

Figure 1. Proposed Project



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