

# West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report



Metro®



**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

for the

**WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT**

prepared by the

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION**

and the

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**Pursuant to:**

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, § 102 (42 United States Code [USC] § 4332); Federal Transit Law (49 USC Chapter 53); 49 USC § 303 (formerly Department of Transportation Act of 1966 § 4[f]); National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, § 106 (16 USC § 470f); Clean Air Act (42 USC § 7401 et seq.); Clean Water Act, Section 404 (33 USC § 1344); Endangered Species Act (7 USC § 136; 16 USC § 1531 et seq.); 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 622.101; 23 CFR Parts 771 and 774; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508; Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands); Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management); Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice); California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.; and the State of California's CEQA Guidelines, California Administrative Code, § 15000 et seq.

FTA may issue a single Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision document pursuant to Pub. L. 114-94 and 23 U.S.C 139(n) (2) unless FTA determines statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuance of the combined document pursuant to Section 139.



Ray Tellis  
Region IX Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

Date: July 20, 2021



Stephanie Wiggins  
Chief Executive Officer  
Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Date: 07/19/2021



## DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

### ABSTRACT

LEAD AGENCIES: Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2017061007

TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION: West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project

ABSTRACT: The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) proposes to implement a light rail transit project that would extend from four possible northern termini in downtown Los Angeles through southeast Los Angeles County to a southern terminus in the City of Artesia. The greater 98-square-mile Study Area extends from the downtown Los Angeles area to the Gateway Cities subregion of Los Angeles County. The Study Area includes 20 cities—Los Angeles, Vernon, Maywood, Huntington Park, Commerce, Bell, Cudahy, Bell Gardens, South Gate, Lynwood, Compton, Downey, Paramount, Bellflower, Long Beach, Lakewood, Norwalk, Artesia, Cerritos, and Hawaiian Gardens—as well as portions of unincorporated LA County. Alternatives studied include a No Build Alternative and four Build Alternatives, as follows:

- Alternative 1: Los Angeles Union Station to Pioneer Station
- Alternative 2: 7th Street/Metro Center to Pioneer Station
- Alternative 3: Slauson A (Blue) Line to Pioneer Station (Staff Preferred Alternative)
- Alternative 4: I-105/C (Green) Line to Pioneer Station

Alternative 1 also has two design options under consideration: Design Option 1: Los Angeles Union Station – Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and Design Option 2: Add Little Tokyo Station. Two maintenance and storage facility (MSF) site options are also under consideration, although only one would be selected: Paramount MSF site option and Bellflower MSF site option.

This report is a combined Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), satisfying the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This Draft EIS/EIR defines the alternatives studied and describes each alternative's associated potential transportation and environmental impacts, capital costs, and potential funding sources. Potential areas of impact include transit, traffic, active transportation, parking, land use/neighborhoods, land acquisition, displacement and relocation, equity and environmental justice considerations, visual quality, air quality, climate change, noise and vibration, geology, soils and seismicity, exposure to hazardous substances, water resources, biological resources, energy resources, safety and security, historic resources, archaeological resources, paleontological resources, tribal cultural resources, economic and fiscal impacts, electromagnetic fields, Section 4(f), community facilities and parklands, construction impacts, and other CEQA determinations. Mitigation measures for each alternative are also identified, as applicable. The information contained in this document will be used by the Metro Board of Directors to decide whether to implement the project and to select, from among the alternatives and alignment options under consideration, a locally preferred alternative in conjunction with the Federal Transit Administration for implementation. The Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS/EIR is expected to be published in the Federal Register on July 30, 2021. The public comment period will be 45 days from the issuance of the Notice of Availability and is expected to end on September 13, 2021.

Additional written comments and/or questions concerning this document should be directed to:

Meghna Khanna  
Project Manager  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan  
Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-4  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone (213) 922-6262  
wsab@metro.net

Charlene Lee Lorenzo  
Director  
Federal Transit Administration  
Region 9  
Los Angeles Metropolitan Office  
888 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 440  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Phone (213) 202-3952

Rusty Whisman  
Transportation Program Specialist  
Federal Transit Administration  
Region 9  
Los Angeles Metropolitan Office  
888 S. Figueroa St., Suite 440  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Phone (213) 202-3956