

West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor

Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report



Metro®

This page intentionally left blank

**FINAL 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**

In cooperation with

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

and the

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS)

Pursuant to:

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, § 102 (42 United States Code [USC] § 4332); Efficient environmental reviews for project decisionmaking and One Federal Decision (23 USC § 139); 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 (54 USC § 100101, 36 CFR § 800); 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 Orders 12898 and 14096 (Environmental Justice); California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.; and the State of California's CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, § 15000 et seq.



2024.03.17

22:35:19 -07'00'

Date: _____

Ray Tellis
Region IX Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration



Stephanie Wiggins
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Date: 3/13/24

This page intentionally left blank

FINAL 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 will extend from a northern terminus in the City of Los Angeles/Florence-Firestone community of Los Angeles (LA) 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 LA 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. In January 2022, the Metro Board of Directors identified Alternative 3: Slauson A (Blue) Line to Pioneer Station from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), which is the focus of this Final EIS/EIR. The No Build Alternative is included in this Final EIS/EIR for comparative purposes.

This report is a combined Final EIS/EIR, satisfying the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). It also serves as summary documentation of the consultation conducted in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the Section 4(f) evaluation prepared pursuant to Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966.

This Final EIS/EIR addresses agency and public comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR and describes the associated potential transportation and environmental impacts, capital cost, and potential funding sources for the LPA. 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 the LPA are also identified. The information contained in this document will be used by the Metro Board of Directors to decide whether to approve and proceed with the LPA.

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 99-22-7
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone (213) 922-6262
SGL@metro.net

Charlene Lee Lorenzo
Senior 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
Senior 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