

**Board Report**

File #: 2021-0176, **File Type:** Informational Report**Agenda Number:** 14.

**PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE
JUNE 16, 2021****SUBJECT: COUNTYWIDE PLANNING MAJOR PROJECT STATUS REPORT****ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE****RECOMMENDATION**

RECEIVE AND FILE monthly report on the Major Capital Projects in the environmental planning phase by the Chief Planning Officer.

DISCUSSION

This month's Major Project Status Report provides the regular update for Metro's four Pillar Projects and the North Hollywood to Pasadena Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. This report also includes new updates on recent developments for a project that has reached critical milestones recently: Crenshaw Northern Extension.

- **West Santa Ana Branch Corridor (WSAB)**

Metro staff is working on submitting the third and final round of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The third administrative will be submitted to FTA on June 9, 2021. FTA is currently expected to authorize public circulation of the Draft EIS/EIR by mid-July 2021.

In April, the Project team conducted two Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) meetings, to share the latest details on the project alternatives, environmental process and next steps, including the anticipated release of the Draft EIS/EIR this summer. The SWG provides feedback from a community perspective and serves as a communication liaison/ambassador. The participants include business, community, education, environmental justice and faith-based organizations.

Public outreach will be conducted this spring and summer during the release of the Draft EIS/EIR, including the official 45-day comment period. Both in-person open houses and virtual public-hearings are being contemplated at this time. The date and time of these meetings will be finalized by end of this month. To enhance project awareness and access to the latest updates, several multi-media tools will be launched to inform users about the project corridor and environmental process. Communications Toolkits also will be shared with community leaders to support their engagement with constituents, and presentations and project updates are available by request.

The project continues to advance field survey work and verification of existing utilities identified as part of the 15% design. Staff continues to coordinate with various third parties as necessary including Union Pacific Railroad, cities, Caltrans, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and various utility providers.

- **Green Line to Torrance LRT Extension**

Staff is in the process of evaluating the 700 comments have been received during the scoping period. Comments received will be a part of the environmental process. The majority of comments received were generally supportive of the project, however many included specific concerns regarding the two alternatives under consideration. These concerns included alignment configuration and potential impacts such as noise, vibration, property acquisition, safety, and changes to aesthetics/community character that need to be further evaluated. Based on scoping comments, the project team will move forward with the Draft EIR and conceptual design of the alternatives under evaluation.

The project team and BNSF Railroad are having on-going discussions to better understand their daily operations and accommodating an extension of the Green Line (C Line) under consideration. BNSF has certain requirements to maintain their existing and future needs along the ROW. The discussions are providing both teams with a better understanding of what is needed to accommodate BNSF's requirements and are being taken under consideration as the initial designs of the alternatives are being developed.

Initial Risk workshops for the project were conducted on May 3 and 5 with a final discussion on June 7. The workshops provide an opportunity to understand and monitor potential risks for the project across multiple disciplines; these risks are also monetized for project cost estimations. The workshops will be held on an on-going basis during the project development to address and minimize risks as the project progresses.

Community outreach will be ongoing and project updates will be shared as the environmental process progresses. On May 26, the project team conducted a visual site visit of both alternatives under consideration to better understand comments received during the scoping process. Targeted stakeholder meetings will be scheduled to discuss community concerns and project opportunities throughout the study area. Coordination will continue as well with Caltrans and BNSF to understand current and future operational needs for both entities and alternatives under evaluation. Potholing activities are being scheduled with both Caltrans and BNSF to identify the location of existing utilities on both alternatives to better inform the conceptual design process.

- **Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2**

The Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 project team is nearing completion of the Community-Based Organization (CBO) Outreach Strategy based on input received from Community Relations and Race and Equity Departments, Board offices, and key stakeholders.

Metro staff received feedback from the following key stakeholders:

- o Leaders from the East Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and the Whittier Boulevard Merchants Association (March 30)
- o East Los Angeles Small Business Roundtable (March 31)
- o Washington Coalition (April 1 and May 6)
- o Health Innovation Community Partnership (April 2)

The CBO Outreach strategy will follow the guidance of the Equity Platform and the CBO Partnering Strategy. Next steps involve the development of participatory criteria and scope of work with assistance from the project team's outreach consultant. The CBO Outreach Strategy is anticipated to be implemented this summer, prior to commencing community engagement for the Eastside Transit Corridor 2.

The environmental and engineering consultant teams are advancing the project with an anticipated release of the Draft EIR in spring 2022. The engineering consultant continues to further evaluate station locations, maintenance storage facility sites, and design variations along the alignment. Additionally, feasibility analysis progresses on an at-grade configuration in the City of Montebello and the I-605 crossing.

- **Sepulveda Transit Corridor**

On April 14, 2021, Metro staff notified the Board of the five Valley-Westside alternatives entering into the environmental process for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project. These five alternatives collectively represent the concepts advanced by the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Feasibility Study and the Pre-Development Agreement (PDA) process. Staff is preparing for the environmental scoping period in fall 2021. Following the March 2021 contract award of two PDA teams, Program Management continues working to execute the Notice to Proceed with the teams. A virtual community meeting on June 8, 2021, will update the community of project activities since the publication of the Feasibility Study and provide an overview of the upcoming environmental process.

- **North Hollywood (NoHo) to Pasadena Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)**

Following Board approval of the Proposed Project in May 2021, this Project is now in the Final EIR phase. Since the release of the Draft EIR and through public input and community engagement, staff had developed a refined Proposed Project that was presented to the public at a community meeting held on April 1, 2021. A total of 369 people attended the meeting and were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the Proposed Project. Most of the questions and comments pertained to the Eagle Rock segment of the project. Overall, the feedback received from participants leaned slightly in favor of the Proposed Project in Eagle Rock, with those opposed expressing concerns over traffic congestion and spillover onto adjacent neighborhood streets, resulting from the loss of travel lanes. Based on the feedback received from the public and key stakeholders, staff updated the recommended Proposed Project to include two center-running BRT design options for Colorado Boulevard in Eagle Rock - one which converts a travel lane in each direction to a bus lane

and the other which retains all travel lanes but reduces parking and median space to accommodate bus lanes.

The refined Proposed Project was approved by the Metro Board on May 27, 2021. Staff will begin preparing a Final EIR and will continue coordinating with the cities and conduct additional community outreach in the months ahead.

- **Countywide Planning Dashboard**

While this report focuses on the four Major Capital (“Pillar”) Projects, there are six other Measure M projects, five non-Measure M projects, and four Strategy & Policy initiatives. For an update on these other 15 projects, please refer to Attachment A of this report, which provides the Countywide Planning Dashboard.

Of note, the following project reached important milestones this month as highlighted below:

- **Crenshaw Northern Extension**

The Crenshaw Northern Extension project completed public scoping on May 28, as part of the environmental review process. Approximately 421 participants attended three virtual meetings, during which staff presented scoping and project objectives and walked participants through the environmental review process for the three alignments being studied.

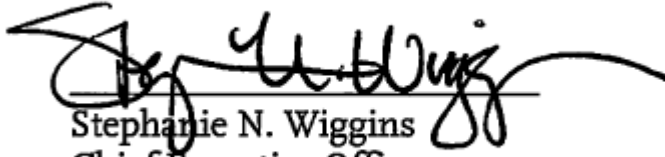
Approximately 390 public comments (virtual speaker, email, or voice mail) were received. This study will evaluate three potential alignments to extend the Crenshaw/LAX line north from the E (Expo) Line with connections to the D (Purple) and B (Red) Lines and five of our busiest bus lines, with a potential terminus at the Hollywood Bowl. A Post-Scoping Alternatives Report will be prepared (anticipated in fall 2021) documenting all the comments heard; that information will be used to help further refine the alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Countywide Planning Monthly Major Projects - June 2021

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Stephanie N. Wiggins
Chief Executive Officer

Countywide Planning Monthly Project Updates

June 2021 Monthly Update

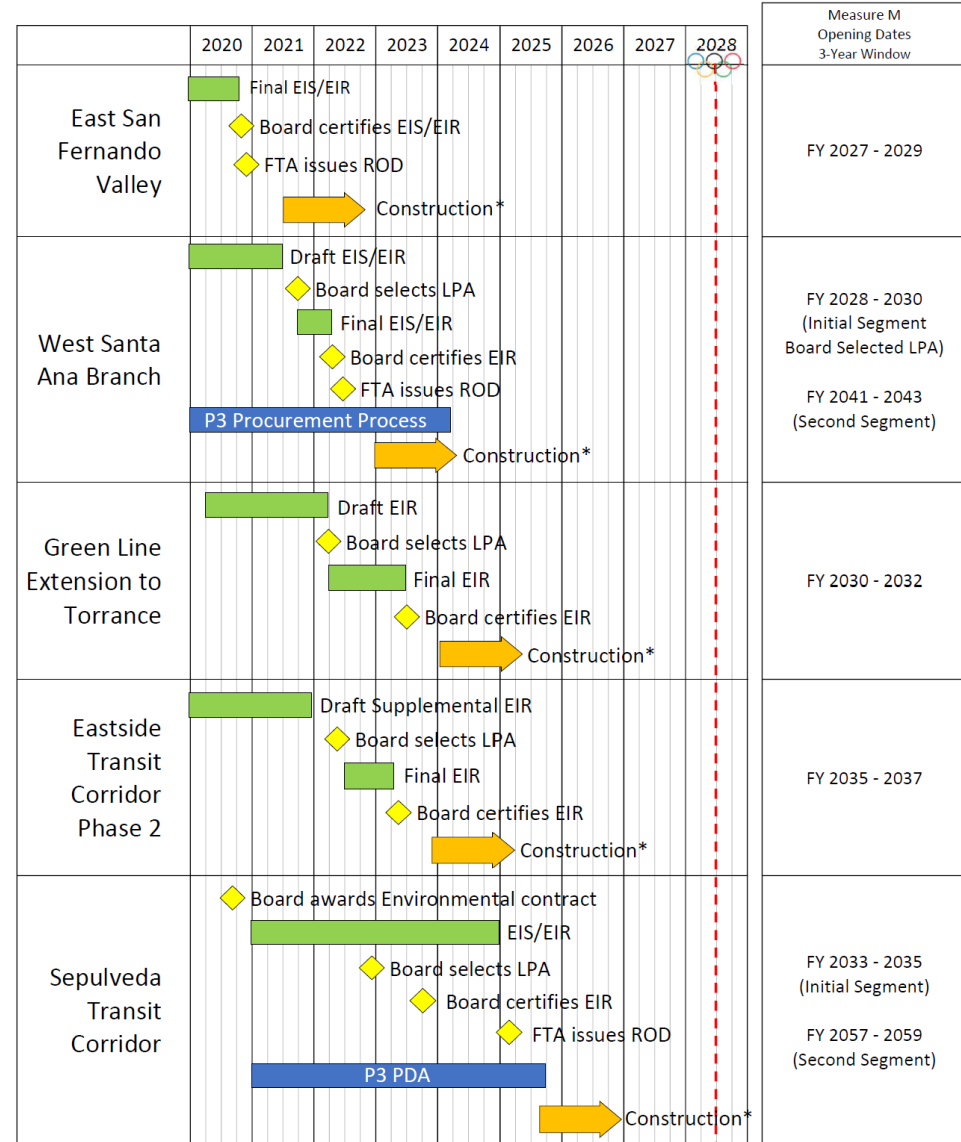
> Monthly Status of Major Projects

- West Santa Ana Branch
- Green Line to Torrance
- Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2
- Sepulveda Transit Corridor
- NoHo to Pasadena BRT

> Countywide Planning Dashboard



ESFV + Pillar Projects Measure M Baseline Schedules



* Construction is inclusive of advanced utility relocation and right-of-way Schedules are subject to change based on funding and environmental review

West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor

> Status

- Draft EIS/EIR

- Anticipated Draft Release: July 2021
- Anticipated LPA Selection: Fall 2021

> Key Activities in April

- Submitting third Administrative Draft to FTA on June 9, 2021
- UPRR ongoing coordination on commercial development study
- 15% design work continues to conduct field surveys of utilities
- 3rd Party Coordination with Caltrans and Army Corps
- Preparing for public outreach and public hearings during the 45-day circulation period

> Next Actions

- Incorporate 3rd round of FTA comments on the administrative draft
- Release Draft EIS/EIR in July
- July to August: Community engagement during the release of the Draft EIS/EIR



Green Line Extension to Torrance

> Status

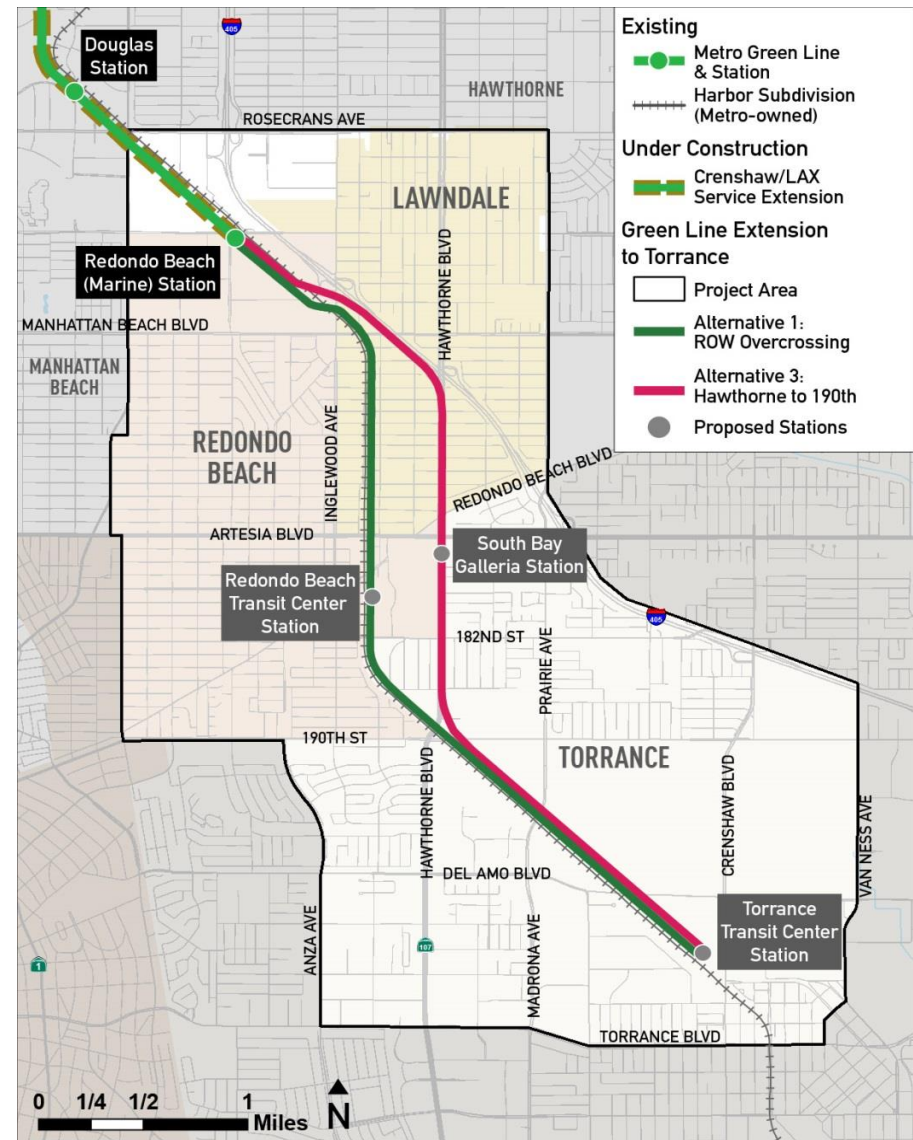
- Draft EIR + Advanced Conceptual Engineering tasks are proceeding (15% design)

> Key Activities

- Review of over 700 comments received during the scoping period to incorporate necessary public issues into environmental review
- Ongoing coordination meetings with BNSF on shared track segments
- Engineering analysis of Hawthorne versus ROW technical issues

> Next Actions

- Ongoing outreach:
 - Cities, BNSF, Caltrans
 - Communities
- Summer Walking Tours with Community Stakeholders, Residents



Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2

> Status

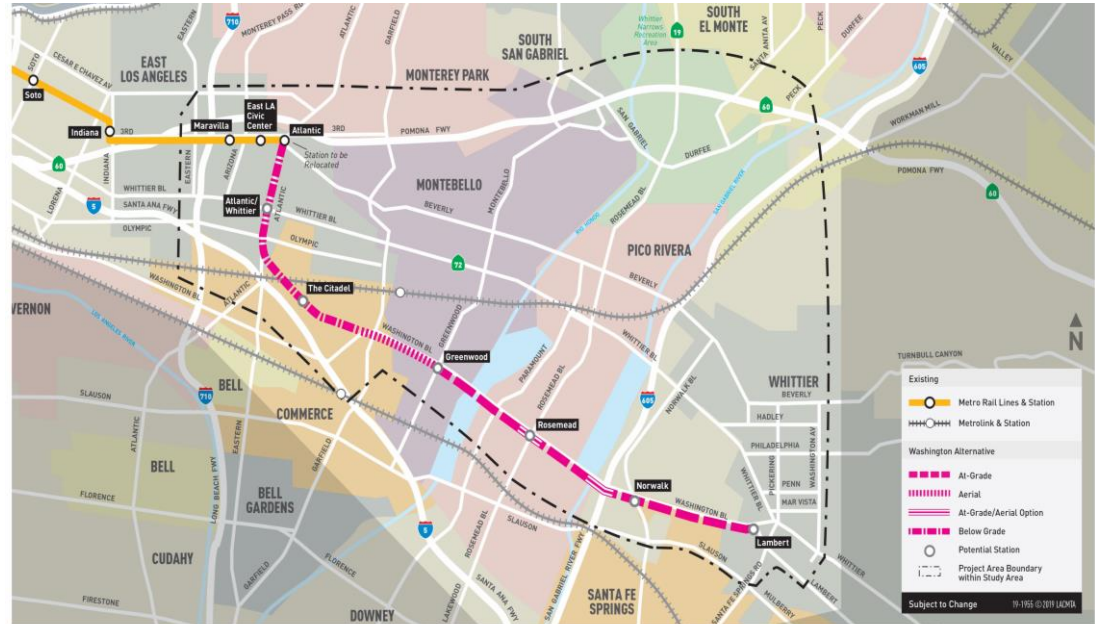
- Environmental Analysis, Systems Engineering and Advanced Conceptual Engineering (ACE)

> Key Activities

- Community Based Organization Outreach strategy is close to being finalized with input from Community Relations and Race & Equity Departments
 - Strategy anticipated to be implemented this summer

> Next Actions

- Continuing design and alternatives definition refinements of below ground segment, proposed Maintenance Yard sites and Washington Boulevard profile configurations in Montebello (aerial and at-grade)



Sepulveda Transit Corridor

> Status

- Identified the five Valley-Westside alternatives entering into the environmental process
- Conduct a virtual community meeting on June 8, 2021, updating the community of project activities since the publication of the Feasibility Study and provide an overview of the upcoming environmental process

> Key Activities

- Preparing Notice to Proceed (NTP) for Pre-Development Agreement (PDA) teams
- Preparing for virtual community meeting on June 8, 2021

> Next Actions

- Preparation for Environmental Scoping Period in Fall 2021



NoHo to Pasadena BRT

> Status

- Following Board approval of Proposed Project in May, Project is now in FEIR phase

> Key Activities

- Ongoing stakeholder outreach to inform Project design
 - March 2021 – Conducted 3 meetings with Eagle Rock stakeholders and businesses (80 participants)
 - April 2021 – Corridor-wide community meeting (369 total attendees) to present the recommended Proposed Project prior to Board approval in May
 - April 2021 – Staff provided response to December Board motion on optional left-side boarding
 - May 2021 – Metro Board approved the Proposed Project Preferred Alternatives

> Next Actions

- Summer 2021 – Conduct further studies in Eagle Rock and Burbank in response to Board Direction (May)
- Fall 2021 – Board certification of Final EIR



Countywide Planning Dashboard

Pillar Projects									
	Project Name	Env Completion (FY)	Measure M Opening (FY)	Project Phase				Date	Action/Status
				AA	Draft Env	Final Env	Construction		
1	West Santa Ana Branch LRT	2022	2028-2030		X			April 2021	Approve Gateway COG Funding Agreement Modification and Extension
								July 2021	Release of Draft EIS/EIR
2	Green Line Extension to Torrance LRT	2023	2030-2032		X			April 2021	Review of EIR Scoping comments
								March 2022	Receive Draft EIR and Select Locally Preferred Alternative
3	Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2	2024	2035-2037		X			Fall 2021	Select Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
4	Sepulveda Transit Corridor	2025	2033-2035	X				Fall 2021	Environmental Scoping

Other Measure M Projects									
	Project Name	Env Completion (FY)	Measure M Opening (FY)	Project Phase				Date	Action/Status
				AA	Draft Env	Final Env	Construction		
5	East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor LRT	2020	2027-2029				X	Summer 2021	Environmental Clearance completed; initiate Supplemental ROW Study.
6	North San Fernando Valley BRT	2021	2023-2025		X			Summer 2021	Approve Proposed Project
7	North Hollywood - Pasadena BRT	2022	2022-2024			X		May 2021	Received Draft EIR and initiated Final EIR
8	Crenshaw Northern Extension LRT	2023	2047-2049		X			Fall 2021	EIR Scoping period completed. Initiate Post-Scoping Alternatives Report.
9	LA River Path (central gap)	2024	2025-2028		X			January 2022	Receive Draft EIR and Select Locally Preferred Alternative
10	Vermont Transit Corridor	2024	2028-2030	X				May 2021	Award Environmental Contract

Non-Measure M Projects			Project Phase						
	Project Name	Env Completion (FY)	Opening/ Completion (FY)	AA	Draft Env	Final Env	Construction	Date	Action/Status
11	Centinela Grade Separation	2021	2025			X		Summer 2021	Approve funding and project delivery plan
12	LAUS Forecourt and Esplanade Improvements	2021	2023			X		June 2022	Life of Project Approval
13	Rio Hondo Confluence Station Feasibility Study	TBD. Feasibility Study anticipated to be completed in 2022	TBD	X				TBD	Receive Feasibility Study Report and determine next steps for the potential Rio Hondo Confluence Station
14	Rail-to-River ATC (Segment B)	TBD. Supplemental study	TBD	X				Fall 2021	Receive Supplemental Alternatives Analysis Select Revised Locally Preferred Alternative
15	Arts District/ 6th Street Station HRT	TBD	TBD		X			April 2021	Initiate EIR Scoping
16	First/Last Mile Implementation in Transit Corridor Projects (PLE 2 and forward)	varies by project	varies by project					Summer 2021	Approve FLM Plan for PLE 1; Other periodic project-specific actions in the future;

Strategies/ Policies			Phase					
	Project Name	Groundbreaking / Initiation (FY)	Opening/ Completion (FY)	Policies/ Strategic Plans	Implementation Plans	Date	Action/Status	
17	Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Implementation Plan:Semi-Annual Reports	Ongoing	Ongoing		X	Summer 2021	Report on TOC Implementation Plan Semi Annual Reports	
18	BRT Vision and Principles Study	2019	2021	X		June 2021	Response to March 2021 Board Motion	
19	First/Last Mile Guidelines	N/A	N/A	X		May/June 2021	Adopt Guidelines	
20	Joint Development Policy	N/A	N/A	X		May 2021	Joint Development Policy Paper published and presented at January Board Adopt Revisions to Policy	