



CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

February 11th, 2022

Peter Carter, Project Manager
Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-6
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project Scoping Period Letter

Dear Mr. Carter:

As elected representatives of the San Fernando Valley, we write today to share the values that we feel must guide Metro’s Scoping process in selecting a Locally-Preferred Alternative for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project (“Project”). We share this letter now in the hopes that early collaboration will result in the best possible version of the Project for both the City of Los Angeles and the region.

The Project presents an enormous opportunity to improve land use, mobility, and equity in Los Angeles. With over 400,000 people traveling in private vehicles through the Sepulveda Pass every weekday, even a small shift to transit will have a massive impact on emissions—and we foresee a much larger transformation than that. By connecting to Metrolink, three Metro Rail lines, and numerous bus lines, the Project will allow riders to take reliable, fast, and safe transit between the Valley, UCLA, and after Phase 2 is complete, LAX. These enhancements will greatly improve the County’s rail network, and provide a critical connection from the Valley to the jobs-rich Westside.

For working class communities in the San Fernando Valley, this Project will be particularly transformative. Many people in the Valley currently rely on transit and endure hour-plus commutes with multiple transfers and frequent delays to access the neighborhoods that will be serviced by the Project. By cutting the trip from Van Nuys to West Los Angeles to less than half an hour, the Project will create easy access to jobs, education, recreation, and cultural opportunities for these communities.

Our Values Related to the Project

In order to maximize the potential for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor to serve the needs of our Valley communities we are framing our decisions about the project around the following values and positions:

- Metro must prevent significant and extended construction impacts to Van Nuys Boulevard from the Metrolink right-of-way to the Orange (G) Line, or any other impacts that could otherwise result in any significant disruption of service on the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Corridor regardless of which Project Alternative is selected.
- The Project must be based on principles of equity. Any alternative that calls for above ground facilities in the San Fernando Valley but not for other segments of the Project corridor, or that in any way disproportionately disadvantages the San Fernando Valley and its residents, is not based on fairness and therefore is not acceptable.
- Any Project Alternative must have a station on the UCLA Campus and direct transfers (co-located stations) to the Metrolink Ventura County Line, the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor, the Orange (G) Line, the Purple (D) Line, and the Expo (E) Line.
- The area surrounding the Van Nuys Metrolink Station ranks in the top 5% of most environmentally impacted CalEnviroscreen census tracts. This area is proposed as the location of a new rail yard for the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Line in several alternatives. If another rail yard is placed in this area, Metro must mitigate the environmental impacts by funding initiatives similar to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's community emission-reduction grant programs and create publicly accessible park space to buffer the facility.
- Metro should include, for any alternative, the study of an additional station to fill the 1.75 to 2-mile gap between the Orange (G) Line and Ventura Blvd with a potential station at either Burbank Blvd or Magnolia Blvd.
- As part of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project, Metro should incorporate public restrooms in all stations, station plazas, and station portals in construction and should include restroom operations and maintenance as a part of the line's operations and maintenance program.
- The city is planning large investments at the Sepulveda Basin and Los Angeles River, which will enhance their status as regionally important recreational and open space destinations. Any Project Alternative should include active transportation connections to both of these areas, which should be built and complete in time for the opening of transit service.
- Any Project Alternative should include analysis of First-Last Mile options for accessing stations and should prioritize station placement with better existing and potential access. Any First-Last Mile features should be built and complete in time for the opening of transit service.

- Similar to how Metro worked with the City of Los Angeles to secure an FTA Planning Grant for the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor, Metro should partner with the City to pursue funding, develop, and advance equitable land use planning around stations areas to:
 - Encourage mixed income and mixed-use development;
 - Evaluate direct and indirect displacement risk and mitigation measures;
 - Affordable housing retention and production;
 - Design elements to maximize transit usage in new development.
- Metro should proactively identify and evaluate potential Joint-Development opportunities at and around future station locations and with any land acquired through property acquisition for the project for all alternatives.

The Sepulveda Pass is one of the most congested corridors in the nation. This Project represents an opportunity to invest in sustainable and reliable mass transit infrastructure that will fundamentally transform the travel and daily lives of millions of residents. It is imperative that Metro plan this project in a way that produces the greatest long-term benefits for transit riders and residents for decades to come—even if that requires more upfront investment.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to make this important project a reality.

Sincerely,



NURY MARTINEZ
LA City Council President
Councilmember, 6th District



PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District



NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District



MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

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