

East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY



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Attachment A Public Comment Summary Table

1.1 Public Scoping Activities and Meetings

Opportunities for public participation are required throughout the environmental clearance phase at key milestones. The first major milestone during the environmental review process begins with “Scoping.” During the Scoping Period, stakeholders had various opportunities to provide input on the issues they felt should be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR). The Scoping Period officially started on March 1, 2013, when the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Metro issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP). The Public Scoping Period ended on May 6, 2013.

Community outreach activities were completed during the Scoping Period to ensure that the public, stakeholders, and agencies had an opportunity to learn about the study and comment on the scope of the DEIS/DEIR. The following key activities were completed as part of the public participation program during this phase:

- Scoping Meeting Notification Activities
- Digital Engagement Activities
- Elected Officials Briefing
- Four Public Scoping Meetings
- One Interagency Scoping Meeting

1.1.1 Summary of Scoping Comments Received

To maximize the opportunities to receive public input regarding the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project, Metro collected comments in a variety of ways including:

- Comment forms at the four Public Scoping Meetings
- Verbal comments during the question and answer portion of meetings
- Email
- US Mail
- Telephone
- Facebook (using the “Scoping comments” app)
- Twitter (using #EastSFVScoping).

During this round of meetings, Metro received 258 formal comments from various stakeholders on a variety of topics relevant to the study process and the overall project. A synopsis of those comments is provided below.

- Strong support for a light rail transit (LRT) alternative.
- Support for a continuous connection with the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project.
- Desire to accommodate bicycle lanes along the project corridor area; if not along Van Nuys Boulevard, then on other parallel streets.
- Frustration over funding available for the rail alternatives and perceived “unfair share” of funds being allocated for San Fernando Valley projects.
- Need to alleviate overcrowding on Metro Lines 761, 233 and the Metro Orange Line.
- Desire that this project bring additional local jobs to the San Fernando Valley.
- Questions regarding how the project would interface with the Metro Orange and Red Lines, Metrolink and California High Speed Rail.
- Concerns about potential impacts to businesses during construction, specifically the potential loss of revenue and jobs.
- Information on why the project did not continue south of the Metro Orange Line in dedicated lanes and desire for segment to be reconsidered.
- Better schedule/timeline for when the project could be completed.
- Suggestions that the maintenance storage facility be built in Panorama City.
- Recommendations that improved service (and connections) are provided to residents north of San Fernando Road in the communities of Pacoima and Lake View Terrace and west of the Sylmar/San Fernando Metrolink Station to Olive View Medical Center and Los Angeles Mission College.
- Inclusion of local artists to showcase artwork at the future stations.
- Support for converting the Metro Orange Line to light rail.

2.1 Notification and Meetings for Public Review Period

The DEIS/DEIR was released for public review on September 1, 2017, when the FTA and Metro issued a Notice of Availability (NOA) to notify Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local government agencies, as well as organizations and individuals, of the completion of the DEIS/DEIR, and to request comments on the environmental document pursuant to Section 15087 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The document was made available for review online at (<https://www.metro.net/projects/east-sfv/>, by clicking on the Draft EIS/EIR tab) and at various local libraries during the Public Review Period, which was held from September 1, 2017 to October 30, 2017.

Community outreach activities were completed during the Public Review Period in English and Spanish to ensure that the public, stakeholders, and agencies had an opportunity to learn and comment on the DEIS/DEIR, including potential impacts, benefits, and other findings related to the alternatives studied. The following key activities were completed as part of the public participation program during this phase:

- Notification of Public Review Period and upcoming meetings via print newspaper ads, e-blasts, and distribution of take-one notices along the entire corridor and on Metro bus lines serving the corridor;
- Digital engagement activities on Facebook, Twitter, and The Source;
- Elected officials briefings; and
- Project information and Public Hearing invitation drop-off material delivered to corridor neighborhood and community groups.

Metro held the following five Public Hearings during the Public Comment Period for the DEIS/DEIR:

Thursday, September 14, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
City of San Fernando Regional Pool Facility
208 Park Ave., San Fernando, CA 91340

Monday, September 18, 2017, 8:30 – 11:00 am
Zev Yaroslavsky Family Support Center
7555 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91405

Monday, September 18, 2017, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Valley Municipal Building, Council Chambers
14410 Sylvan St, 2nd Floor, Van Nuys, CA 91401

Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 9:00 am - 11:30 am
Pacoima Charter Elementary School Auditorium
11016 Norris Ave, Pacoima, CA 91331

Saturday, September 23, 2017, 9 am to 12 pm
St. Mark's, Episcopal Church,
14646 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405

During the first month of the Public Review Period, Metro received a number of comments from property owners and tenants who had been notified that their property was identified for potential acquisition. In response, Metro extended the Public Review Period from October 16, 2017 to October 30, 2017 and held a focused informational meeting with these property/business owners and tenants at the following date, time, and location. To publicize this meeting, Metro notified the public via e-blast and door-to-door noticing in the three locations identified as potential maintenance and storage facilities.

October 10, 2017, 5:00 pm -8:30 pm
Van Nuys State Building Auditorium,
6150 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys, CA 91401

At each Public Hearing, Metro presented an overview of the project purpose and need, project description, the alternatives analyzed in the DEIS/DEIR, a summary of impacts and mitigation measures, and next steps in the environmental process, including selection of a preferred alternative. Metro staff informed the attendees that while the DEIS/DEIR described and analyzed the four build alternatives as defined in the document, Metro could in fact select a preferred alternative that includes a combination of different components, such as an at grade LRT alternative with 14 stations (which would be a hybrid of Alternatives 3 and 4 analyzed in the DEIS/DEIR). The Public Hearings were held along different segments of the project corridor and at locations that were accessible by bus. For the convenience of those attending the Public Hearings, two nighttime meetings, two daytime meetings, and one weekend meeting were held.

Chapter 3

Summary of Comments Received During Public Review Period of DEIS/DEIR

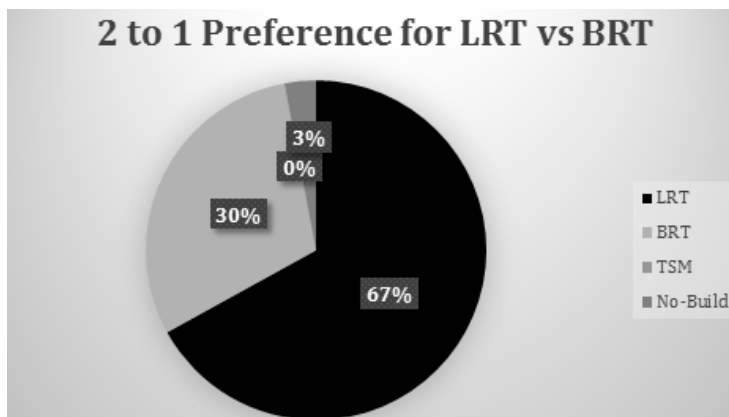
3.1 Tally of Comments Received

During the Public Review Period, Metro received 933 formal individual comments via US mail, email, and the project website (<https://www.metro.net/projects/east-sfv/>; by clicking on “Contact Us”), at the five Public Hearings and at numerous community events where Metro hosted an informational table. Additionally, Metro received a unified petition and letters containing almost 1,700 comments related to the location of a Maintenance and Storage Facility (MSF). MSF-related comments were summarized independently from all other comments because they focused solely on the location of the MSF and they would have skewed the summary of the remaining comments had they been analyzed jointly. A summary table of all of the comments received is included in Appendix A.

Professional judgment was exercised in determining comments received by type, as many comments did not indicate an affiliation. Of the comments received, study area residents and individual commenters represented the largest group of commenters (over 80 percent). Businesses, including owners and their representatives (11 percent), governmental groups and agencies (2 percent) and stakeholder groups (4 percent) collectively represented 16 percent of all comments. The comments are summarized into the following major categories:

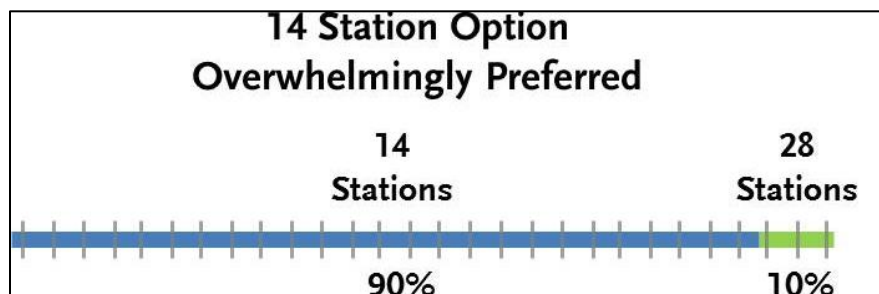
Preferred Travel Mode

Metro received over six hundred (600) comments related to travel mode preference. Over two-thirds of these comments favored light rail transit (LRT); about 30 percent preferred bus rapid transit (BRT), and about three percent favored the No-Build Alternative.



Number of Stations (LRT)

Over seventy comments received pertained to a preferred number of stations under the LRT alternative. An overwhelming majority of those comments (90 percent) expressed preference for a 14-station LRT option, while 10 percent preferred LRT with 28 stations.



At-Grade Versus 2.5-mile Subway

Over ninety comments identified at-grade LRT service or a combination of at-grade service and a 2.5-mile subway segment as preferred options. Of these comments, 56 percent preferred at-grade LRT service, while 44 percent preferred the at-grade with subway segment option.

Maintenance and Storage Facility (MSF) Location

Metro received nearly 2,000 comments (mainly from the unified petition and letters comprised of almost 1,700 business owners, employees and proprietors) that weighed in solely on the location of a Maintenance and Storage Facility (MSF) if LRT is selected as the locally preferred alternative (LPA).

Ninety-four (94) percent of these comments expressed opposition to Option A. Option B emerged as the site with the highest level of support, with five (5) percent of all MSF-related comments in support of the Option B site. This includes a letter of support from City of Los Angeles Council District 6, which represents the area covering all three potential MSF sites. Council District 6 expressed support for the Option B site as the preferred location for the MSF. Additionally, the Panorama City Neighborhood Council and the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council, which cover the areas surrounding the potential MSF sites, also expressed support for building the MSF at the Option B site.

3.2 Additional Themes and Issues in the Comments Received

Some additional themes and issues that emerged in the public comments received consist of the following:

- Property acquisition concerns
- General safety and security concerns
- Potential connection with other Metro projects (Metro Orange Line, Sepulveda Transit Corridor)
- Loss of on-street parking
- Loss of bike lanes
- Construction-related impacts
- Unfamiliarity with new transit technology (LRT) among existing bus riders along the corridor
- Scarcity of land zoned for industrial uses in the East San Fernando Valley

Chapter 4 Issues to be Addressed

Further study and coordination regarding the following issues is recommended, before finalizing project design plans for the proposed ESFVTC project:

- A Grade Crossing Safety Study at five intersections along the San Fernando rail right-of-way: Paxton, Jesse/Wolfskill, Brand, Maclay, and Hubbard should be undertaken in response to the Southern California Regional Rail Authority's (SCRRA's) Comment Letter stating a concern for expanded at-grade rail operations in that segment of the corridor and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requirements for design and operating criteria.
- Additional engineering analysis and refinement should be undertaken for the segment of the ESFVTC alignment within the City of San Fernando in response to a Comment Letter from the City of San Fernando stating concerns over potential property acquisitions adjacent to the San Fernando rail right-of-way (ROW). This should include ongoing coordination with SCRRA (Metrolink) and the City of San Fernando to ensure that the ESFVTC project can allow for a future second Metrolink track on the ROW and to address the City's concerns, as they pertain to minimizing the need for ROW acquisitions.
- A Connection Study should be undertaken that would coordinate the design efforts and planning, including a connection, between the ESFVTC and the Metro Orange Line Improvements Project.

**Attachment A: East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor -
Public Comment Period Summary Table**

East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor DEIS/R - Public Comment Summary Table

Count	Preferred Mode				# of LRT Stations		Grade Preferences		MSF Comments Only	
	LRT	BRT	TSM	NB	28-stations	14-stations	At-grade	At-grade & 2.5-mile Subway	Oppose MSF Option A	All other MSF comments
	67%	30%	0%	3%	10%	90%	56%	44%	94%	6%
434	192	1	21	7	66	54	42	1862	128	

Commenter by Type	#	%
Residents/Individuals	784	84%
Businesses	98	11%
Government/Agencies	15	2%
Stakeholder Groups (including residential groups)	36	4%
Total	933	