

# Office Of The Inspector General

## Metro Rail Design Criteria Review Report

Presented By  
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**Construction Committee**

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority



## Purpose Statement

The OIG initiated a study to determine what differences exist between the Metro's rail design criteria and the typical design specifications of cities in Los Angeles.

The 11 Cities along the Southeast Gateway Line were chosen to use as samples for the study.

The purpose of the review was to determine if there exists any opportunities for streamlining and further efficiency in the permitting processes in relation to the specifications.

## Findings

1. MRDC and 11 Cities' specifications are 99.5% the same.
2. Permitting review is not warranted for the conforming specifications.

## Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Metro make updates to its MRDC promptly as requirements change and include best practices to ensure cities can trust Metro's MRDC to reflect legally correct and good quality requirements.

Recommendation 2: Metro be self-permitting for substantially consistent or more stringent standards than a city where we are performing construction.

Recommendation 3: Metro seek an accelerated, abbreviated permitting process for the SEG Line project and for other Metro projects in the future, for the non-conforming "exception" specifications related to the project.

Metro agrees with the OIG's recommendations as they align with the Project's early due diligence strategy of addressing key risks early on including critical third-party approvals.

Allowing Metro to self-permit would likely improve Metro's control over the schedule and reduce schedule risks and costs.

### **Steps SEG Line already taking:**

- Metro continues to update MRDC to reflect change in law, industry practice, and lessons learned from recent projects.
- Discussions with corridor cities on the idea of Metro to self-permit for work within city and/or public right-of-way to help identify offset payments for cities' 3% contribution to fund the project.
- Metro plans to introduce self-permitting idea to cities on other transit projects including Eastside Extension Phase 2.