

Outreach Summary Report

GOLD LINE EASTSIDE TRANSIT CORRIDOR PHASE 2



Metro

Prepared for
Los Angeles Metropolitan
Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

April 2024

Outreach Summary Report

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1. Outreach Summary Report

1.1 Introduction

Metro has implemented a comprehensive outreach program for the Project, starting in 2007 with outreach meetings for the Alternatives Analysis (AA) and continuing through 2022 for the efforts related to the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). As part of this extensive outreach, Metro has informed elected officials, agency staff, community stakeholders, and the general public of the status of the Project, including progress of the environmental review process.

This Appendix provides a summary of the outreach efforts conducted from the public hearings associated with the publication of the 2014 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Draft EIR through the 2022 public outreach efforts associated with the Recirculated Draft EIR. A brief summary is provided for the Project's historical outreach efforts between 2007 and 2014 associated with the AA and the Scoping for the 2014 Draft EIS/EIR.

Project stakeholders have been involved with each phase of the Project. Coordination efforts with government agencies and their processes are summarized in this chapter. Throughout the extent of the Project history, public meetings have been held in the corridor communities in the GSA — including the cities of Commerce, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier, and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, which includes the communities of East Los Angeles and West Whittier-Los Nietos.

1.2 Background

The Project's history includes the publications of the following documents: the 2009 AA (Attachment A of Appendix T of the Recirculated Draft EIR), the 2014 Draft EIS/EIR, and the 2017 Post Draft EIS/EIR Technical Study. In 2007, Metro began outreach for the Project, with community engagement representing an integral component of the environmental process for the published documents mentioned above. A summary of these efforts is discussed in this section.

1.2.1 Public Outreach 2007 through 2014

In 2007, Metro initiated the AA phase of the Project. Public participation during this phase supported the refinement of alternatives. Ultimately during this phase, 47 Project Alternatives were narrowed down to five. The Project conducted early scoping at the initial stages of the AA. A 30-day public comment period was held from November 1 through November 30, 2007. A total of five early scoping meetings (four community meetings and one agency meeting) were held between November 8 and 15, 2007.

At the early scoping meetings held in 2007, there were a total of 224 attendees representing a cross-section of the communities surrounding the Project. Public input was substantial with a total of 159 comments received during the comment period. Participants commented on: Light Rail Technology as the preferred mode of transit, the Project's proximity to downtown Los Angeles as a reason for considering public transit, and the problem of increasing congestion. In addition to early scoping

meetings, 12 additional public meetings were held post-AA preparation and pre-Draft EIS/EIR scoping which involved over 550 stakeholders.

1.2.1.1 2010 Scoping

The scoping period during the preparation for the Draft EIS/EIR began with the publication of the Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent on January 25, 2010 and continued through April 14, 2010. During the 80-day scoping period, Metro hosted a total of five scoping meetings, four public meetings and one agency meeting, between February 22 and 27, 2010. The meetings were attended by more than 300 people. In addition to the official scoping meetings, Metro also participated upon request in various city and stakeholder events to enhance the outreach effort and increase awareness during the scoping period. For a detailed list of the scoping meeting dates and times, please refer to Attachment A1 of Public Outreach (Appendix S) of the of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

During the 80-day scoping period, Metro accepted oral comments at meetings and via the Project helpline, written comments on meeting comment cards or via letters, e-mailed comments to the Metro Project Manager, and electronic comments via the Metro Project website. A total of 527 oral and/or written public comments were received from both agencies and the public, including from elected officials, residents, grassroots organizations, chambers of commerce, developers, hospitals, agencies, educational institutions, and businesses.

The comments received demonstrated substantial support for each of the two LRT alternatives: the SR-60 Alternative and the Washington Boulevard Alternative. Common themes included the importance of transit connectivity, service to colleges and universities, providing service to underserved areas, concerns regarding environmental and engineering challenges along the two Alternatives, and potential economic opportunities for the cities along the corridors.

1.2.1.2 2010 Public Outreach Post Scoping

Following the 2010 scoping period as discussed in **Section 1.2.1.1**, Metro hosted 11 additional community meetings during the preparation of the 2014 Draft EIS/EIR. These meetings included:

- Five urban design community workshops in July 2010 to discuss and explore the station area concepts for each of the proposed station locations.
- Two community open houses in September 2010 to provide stakeholders with a Project update, and share project refinements and the environmental review schedule.
- As part of the 2010 Rail-Volution Conference, Metro hosted two tours of the Portland, Oregon rail transportation network, featuring similarities to the Project. The tours highlighted the Metropolitan Area Express (MAX) Green Line along Interstate (I)-210 to Clackamas County and the MAX Blue Line to Hillsboro. Stakeholders experienced light rail on the I-210 freeway and its integration with the urban fabric of a suburban community in Hillsboro.
- A Project webinar held in May 2011 informed Project stakeholders of similar light rail projects operating in San Diego, California, Portland, Oregon, and Pasadena, California.
- Two open houses in September 2011 provided additional project updates and information about environmental findings on the 2014 Draft EIS/EIR.

1.2.2 2014 Draft EIS/EIR

1.2.2.1 2014 Notice of Availability

In compliance with CEQA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a Notice of Availability (NOA) was released to notify the public regarding the availability the 2014 Draft EIS/EIR for its public review and comment. A 60-day public review period began on August 22, 2014 and ended on October 21, 2014.

1.2.2.2 2014 Public Hearings

During the 60-day public review period, Metro held four public hearings in communities surrounding the Project in September and October 2014. A total of 528 participants attended these four meetings which also included 120 speakers providing public input and 148 participants providing written comments. **Table 1-1** details the date, location, and public input resulting from these public hearings.

Table 1-1. 2014 Public Hearing Information for the 2014 Draft EIS/EIR

Meeting	Date and Location	Participants	Comments
Public Hearing Meeting #1 - Pico Rivera	September 27, 2014, 9 am to 11:30 am Pico Rivera Senior Center 9200 Mines Avenue, Pico Rivera, CA 90660	62	Speakers: 14 Written Comments: 9
Public Hearing Meeting #2 - Montebello	September 29, 2014, 5:30 pm to 8 pm Quiet Cannon Banquet Center 901 Via San Clemente, Montebello, CA 90640	97	Speakers: 28 Written Comments: 10
Public Hearing Meeting #3 - East Whittier	September 30, 2014, 5:30 pm to 8 pm Uptown Whittier Senior Center 13225 Walnut Street, Whittier, CA 90602	161	Speakers: 46 Written Comments: 116
Public Hearing Meeting #4 - South El Monte	October 1, 2014, 5:30 pm to 8 pm South El Monte Senior Center 1556 Central Avenue, South El Monte, CA 91733	208	Speakers: 32 Written Comments: 13
Total		528	Speakers: 120 Written Comments: 148

Source: Metro. Draft EIS/EIR Public Hearings. Attachment A1 of Appendix S of the of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

The 2014 Draft EIS/EIR was subjected to an extensive volume and scope of comments during the 60-day public review period. As a result, the Board deferred the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and determined that additional technical investigation would be needed to address major areas of concern raised by Cooperating Agencies, corridor cities and stakeholders. Public hearing comments substantiated the Metro Board's direction in 2014 to pursue the following evaluations:

- Continue studying the North Side Design Variation (NSDV) as part of the State Route (SR) 60 Alternative and address comments received from cooperating agencies.
- Eliminate the Garfield Avenue aerial segment between Via Campo and Whittier Boulevard and identify a new north-south connection from the existing Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension (MGLEE) to the proposed alignment on Washington Boulevard.
- Explore the feasibility of operating both LRT alternatives.
- Conduct subsurface investigation along the western portion of the NSDV guideway alignment to initiate characterization of soil conditions, per the request by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

1.2.3 2017 Post Draft EIS/EIR Technical Study

As discussed in **Section 1.2.2.2**, the Metro Board directed staff to proceed with further study and refinement of the Build Alternatives concepts related to the 2014 Draft EIS/EIR. These concepts were developed and evaluated as part of the May 2017 Post Draft EIS/EIR Technical Study. The technical scope of work included completing additional technical studies and supporting public outreach activities over an eighteen-month period to respond to the Metro Board motion. Work on the Technical Study began in August 2016 with a series of community meetings and public outreach activities completed over an eighteen-month period. The purpose of the community and public outreach activities provided the stakeholders project status updates, an opportunity to provide feedback on the route concept development process, and to continue engaging and seeking feedback on the overall community engagement efforts.

During the 2017 Post Draft EIS/EIR Technical Study phase, Metro hosted ten community meetings and held a total of 110 briefings throughout the communities surrounding the Project and hosted two tours of Metro facilities and construction sites. Engagement efforts focused not only on general Project awareness, but also toward engaging the Washington Boulevard Coalition and SR-60 Coalition stakeholders as well as East Los Angeles in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. **Table 1-2** summarizes the meeting attendance.

Table 1-2. 2017 Post Draft EIS/EIR Technical Study - 2016 Community Meetings

Date	Meeting Location	Participants	Comments
March 28, 2016 6 pm to 8 pm	Whittier Senior Center 13225 Walnut Street, Whittier, CA 90602	127	27
March 29, 2016 6 pm to 8 pm	East Los Angeles Library 4837 E 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90022	66	7
March 30, 2016 6 pm to 8 pm	Quiet Cannon 901 Via San Clemente, Montebello, CA 90640	77	9
March 31, 2016 6 pm to 8 pm	South El Monte Senior Center 1556 Central Avenue, South El Monte, CA 91733	56	11
June 22, 2016 6 pm to 8 pm	Griffith Middle School 4765 E 4th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90022	91	17
Emailed Comments			4
Total:		417	75

Source: Metro. 2017 Outreach for 2017 Post Draft EIS/EIR Technical Study. Attachment A2 of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

Community feedback gathered from the 2016 Community Meetings provided a collective response of:

- Overwhelming support for the Project, including Washington Boulevard Alternative via the Atlantic Boulevard underground configuration, SR-60 NSDV Alternative, and the Combined Alternative.
- Interest in connecting communities and improving access to employment centers and Metro's regional transit system.
- Concerns regarding impacts to businesses during construction.
- Interest in economic development opportunities along the corridor.
- Emphasis on station accessibility and safety.

For the 2017 public meetings, Metro hosted five public community meetings in February 2017 in the cities of Whittier, Montebello, South El Monte, Commerce, and the unincorporated community of East Los Angeles to update the community and receive input on the 2017 Post Draft EIS/EIR Technical Study. **Table 1-3** summarizes the meeting attendance.

Table 1-3. 2017 Post Draft EIS/EIR Technical Study - 2017 Community Meetings

Date	Meeting Location	Participants	Comment Cards
February 6, 2017 6 pm to 8 pm	Whittier Senior Center 13225 Walnut Street, Whittier, CA 90602	96	10
February 7, 2017 6 pm to 8 pm	Quiet Cannon 901 Via San Clemente, Montebello, CA 90640	65	8
February 8, 2017 6 pm to 8 pm	South El Monte Senior Center 1556 Central Avenue, South El Monte, CA 91733	48	2
February 15, 2017 6 pm to 8 pm	Commerce Senior Center 2555 Commerce Way, Commerce, CA 90040	39	4
February 16, 2017 6 pm to 8 pm	AltaMed PACE Center 5425 East Pomona Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90022	70	7
Emailed comments			1
Total		318	32

Source: Metro. 2017 Outreach for 2017 Post Draft EIS/EIR Technical Study. Attachment A2 of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

Comments and community feedback gathered from the 2017 Community Meetings included:

- Support for the Project and the initiation of the environmental document.
- Emphasis from community members and stakeholders that the community surrounding the Project is highly dependent on public transportation and would like to see implementation of the Project.
- High level of support for the Washington Alternative with an underground configuration beneath Atlantic Boulevard. There was also support for the SR-60 NSDV Alternative and a moderate level of support for the Combined Alternative that would combine the Washington Boulevard Alternative and the SR-60 NSDV Alternative.
- Concern expressed by participants regarding the potential impacts during the construction of the system, especially traffic and business disruption and/or relocation.
- Highlighting the importance of designing the stations with ease of access for pedestrians, and cyclists and to park-and-ride lots by the community. Also, the community values access to jobs, activity centers within the area surrounding the Project and connectivity to the transit system throughout the Los Angeles Region.
- Suggestions for outreach to youth and the younger generation during the next phase of work.

Of 235 respondents surveyed at the February 2017 community meetings, 63 percent of participants agreed that an underground configuration beneath Atlantic Boulevard had sufficient merit to be recommended as the new Washington Boulevard Alternative. Additionally, 50 percent of participants expressed interest in studying the Combined Alternative in the next phase of work. See the Attachment A1 of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR for further details on the 2017 Post Draft EIS/EIR Technical Study community input.

1.3 2019 Scoping

1.3.1 Public Outreach Prior to 2019 Scoping

Following the 2017 Post Draft EIS/EIR Technical Study, Metro re-initiated the CEQA and NEPA processes to further evaluate potential impacts associated with the refined Build Alternatives. In advance of the Public Scoping Meetings in Summer 2019, Metro offered a Community Update Meeting in East Los Angeles. One meeting was held in East Los Angeles Library on May 13, 2019 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The Community Update Meeting was attended by approximately 120 community members, including staff from Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis' office, community-based organization staff and members of the public. Major comment themes captured at the meeting include:

- Stations/Station Parking
 - Community expressed desire for a station design similar to Mariachi Plaza for the Shops at Montebello station (SR-60 Alternative).
 - Community expressed support for parking to be taken into consideration when planning as there is a parking shortage in the community.
 - Community expressed support for Build the Atlantic and Whittier station at the site of the gas station or at the Sketchers store. Request for a community space in the station area.
 - Community expressed support for hosting a community meeting in Montebello to address the Greenwood Station.
 - Community expressed support for providing shuttle services to stations.
- Alignment
 - Community expressed opposition for the development of the SR-60 Alternative.
 - Community expressed support for the SR-60 Alternative.
 - Community expressed support for the Washington Boulevard Alternative.
 - Community expressed support for an underground alignment from Atlantic to Garfield for the Washington Boulevard Alternative.

- Community expressed preference for the Washington Boulevard Alternative to be built first.
- Community expressed support for the Combined Alternative with underground alignment.
- Safety
 - Community expressed concern about transients coming from the Telford and Woods area.
 - Community expressed concern about safety around the stations with a possible influx of people experiencing homelessness.
- Traffic/Circulation Impacts
 - Community identified Project could help reduce car usage.
- Property Impacts / Right-of-Way
 - Community expressed concern about property values along the SR-60 Alternative.
 - Community expressed concern that the Project would create a denser community.

1.3.2 Public Outreach Work Plans

The Project has developed public outreach work plans to highlight opportunities for public involvement during key milestones throughout the environmental process. The public outreach programs include community profiles, stakeholders, collateral material recommendations, notification strategies, communication protocols, proposed schedules for interfacing with the public and elected officials, and recommendations for meeting formats.

In order to adapt to the communities' needs and allow appropriate modifications and refinements to the Build Alternatives, the public outreach work plan strategies are flexible and adapt to meet the Project's demands and political climate. The public outreach plan for the Project is consistent with outreach requirements outlined in CEQA and NEPA.

The Project has utilized a variety of forums and platforms, including public meetings, community workshops, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, information booths at community events, and social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, NextDoor, and YouTube). As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro has held a series of virtual community meetings via Zoom. Virtual meetings were accompanied by an on-site outdoor "Tech Booth" where the general public could participate if they did not have access to technology through a computer, smart phone, or tablet. The Public Outreach Work plan for the Project can be found in Attachment B of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

1.3.3 Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent

Pursuant to CEQA, Metro issued a Recirculated Notice of Preparation (NOP) on May 31, 2019, informing the public of its intent to prepare a Supplemental/Recirculated Draft EIS/EIR for the Project and notify interested agencies and parties of public scoping meetings. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published the Notice of Intent (NOI) pursuant to NEPA in the Federal Register on May 29, 2019, to initiate the Supplemental/Recirculated Draft EIS/EIR process for the Project.

As discussed in further detail in Section 5.2 Alternatives Withdrawn, in February 2020, the Metro Board withdrew from the NEPA process and pursuing a joint Supplemental/Recirculated Draft EIS/EIR. Metro reevaluated its funding sources and had identified that the Project could be funded through state and local sources and pursued a CEQA only document consisting of a Recirculated Draft EIR (Metro, 2020a). As a result, the FTA published a Notice to Rescind the NOI in May 2020. The NOP, NOI, and Rescinded NOI related to the Recirculated Draft EIR can be found in Appendix A of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

1.3.4 Scoping Meetings

The scoping process is required by policies set forth in the CEQA and NEPA. CEQA (Title XIV, 15082) requires that a lead agency shall call at least one Scoping Meeting if the proposed project is of statewide, regional or areawide significance. The scoping process inherently emphasizes early consultation with resource agencies, other state and local agencies, tribal governments, cooperating and responsible agencies as well as any federal agency whose approval or funding the proposed project will be required for the completion of the project. Metro is the lead agency is under CEQA for this Project. Prior to February 2020 when the Metro Board acted upon a decision to pursue a Recirculated Draft EIR only, instead of a joint Supplemental Draft EIS/EIR, FTA was recognized as the lead agency under NEPA. The 2019 Scoping Summary Report can be found in Attachment C and D in Appendix A of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

Metro conducted six public Scoping Meetings in June 2019 to receive formal public comments on the Build Alternatives and their potential impacts to the environment and quality of life. Notification of the meetings was conducted in compliance with CEQA and NEPA guidance. Meetings were held in the communities of Whittier, Commerce, East Los Angeles, South El Monte, Montebello, and Pico Rivera. Meetings consisted of a presentation detailing an overview of the Project. A total of 573 participants attended the six scoping meetings as shown in **Table 1-4**.

Table 1-4. 2019 Scoping Meetings for the Recirculated Draft EIR

Meeting	Date and Location	Participants	Comments
Public Scoping Meeting #1 - Whittier	Thursday, June 13, 2019, 6 pm to 8 pm Whittier Community Center 7630 Washington Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602	86	Speakers: 34 Written Comments: 5 Oral Testimony Comments: 2
Public Scoping Meeting #2 - Commerce	Monday, June 17, 2019, 6 pm to 8 pm Commerce Senior Citizens Center 2555 Commerce Way, Commerce, CA 90040	41	Speakers: 12 Written Comments: 7 Oral Testimony Comments: 5
Public Scoping Meeting #3 - East Los Angeles	Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 6 pm to 8 pm 4th Street New Primary Center 469 Amalia Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90022	120	Speakers: 43 Written Comments: 3 Oral Testimony Comments: 0
Public Scoping Meeting #4 - South El Monte	Saturday, June 22, 2019, 10 am to 12 pm South El Monte Community Center 1530 Central Avenue, South El Monte, CA 91733	41	Speakers: 12 Written Comments: 7 Oral Testimony Comments: 5
Public Scoping Meeting #5 - Montebello	Monday, June 24, 2019, 6 pm to 8 pm Quiet Cannon Banquet Center 901 Via San Clemente, Montebello, CA 90640	190	Speakers: 28 Written Comments: 20 Oral Testimony Comments: 6
Public Scoping Meeting #6 - Pico Rivera	Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 6 pm to 8 pm Pio Pico Woman's Club 9214 Mines Avenue, Pico Rivera, CA 90660	95	Speakers: 20 Written Comments: 7 Oral Testimony Comments: 12
Total		573	Speakers: 149 Written Comments: 54 Oral Testimony Comments: 33

Source: Metro. 2019 Scoping Summary Report. Attachment C of Appendix A of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

During the Public Scoping Period, Metro received 294 comments. Major themes expressed by stakeholders included:

- Opposition to SR-60 Alternative at-grade alignment from South Atlantic Boulevard to Findlay Avenue.
- Support for the Washington Boulevard Alternative from the city of Whittier and business groups and employers.
- Concern expressed over environmental justice and equal consideration for the lack of providing an underground configuration in lower-income areas of Los Angeles County.

1.4 2020 Public Outreach

In anticipation of recommending the withdrawal of the SR-60 Alternative and Combined Alternative from further evaluation to the Metro Planning and Programming Committee and Metro Board, Metro staff prepared for and planned community meetings to provide a comprehensive Project update. The community meetings were focused on providing informational updates and answering questions related to updates related to the Alternatives withdrawn from further consideration. Meetings held during this period as shown in **Table 1-5**.

Table 1-5. 2020 Post-Scoping Meetings for the Recirculated Draft EIR

Meeting	Date and Location
Community Meeting #1	February 3, 2020, 6 pm to 8 pm Fourth Street Primary Center 469 Amalia Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90022
Community Meeting #2	February 6, 2020, 6 pm to 8 pm Don Bosco Technical Institute 1151 San Gabriel Blvd, Rosemead, CA 91770
Community Meeting #3	February 8, 2020, 10 am to 12 pm The Ark Montebello 931 S Maple Avenue Montebello, CA 90640

Source: Community Meetings February 2020 Summary Report. Attachment D of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

The meetings were attended by 234 participants, and generated 76 questions/comments and five letters. A substantial number of comments focused upon understanding transit service opportunities in the SR-60 corridor if the SR-60 Alternative was withdrawn from consideration for further evaluation. Streamlining construction and the delivery of the Project was a topic of focus for the community. Several participants inquired about operations of the Project, including hours, speeds, and location of the alignment configurations. Several questions were also related to how the Washington Alternative would impact traffic in East Los Angeles in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County and the corridor cities along the alignment. Further details on this public outreach period can be found in the Community Meetings February 2020 Summary Report in Attachment D of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

1.5 2021 Public Outreach

Metro hosted another round of update meetings in November 2021 to provide a Project update, share information on the ongoing station design efforts, and provide an opportunity to ask questions. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings were held in a virtual setting with limited in-person engagement that followed local and county safety measures. The virtual video conferencing platform allowed individuals with internet access via a desktop, laptop, phone, or tablet to join on-screen. Toll-free numbers for accessing the meetings via telephone and simultaneous Spanish interpretation were also made available to participants.

Metro prepared and planned four community meetings that took place virtually, with three presentations tailored to specific communities. The first and second meetings focused on East Los Angeles in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County and provided updates on the Atlantic/Pomona station design options. The third meeting, focused on Montebello, featured updates on the Greenwood station and Montebello At-Grade design option. The fourth meeting presented general updates on the Project corridor.

To support communities with technical limitations during the COVID-19 pandemic, an outdoor set-up was implemented via Tech Booth for all community meetings. During the meetings, fact sheets and other relevant information were provided within the meeting chat. **Table 1-6** summarizes the meeting attendance for the individual meetings held in November 2021. The Community Meetings November 2021 Summary Report discusses the outreach efforts during this time period in further detail and can be found in Attachment F of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

Table 1-6. 2021 Community Outreach Meetings for the Recirculated Draft EIR

Meeting	Date	Tech Booth Location	Participants	Comments
Community Meeting #1 - East Los Angeles	November 15, 2021 12 pm to 1:30 pm	Atlantic Avenue Park 570 S. Atlantic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90022	44 (Including 3 at Tech Booth)	36
Community Meeting #2 - East Los Angeles	November 15, 2021 6 pm to 7:30 pm	Atlantic Avenue Park 570 S. Atlantic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90022	37 (Including 5 at Tech Booth)	32
Community Meeting #3 - Montebello	November 16, 2021 6 pm to 7:30 pm	Montebello Senior Center 115 S. Taylor Avenue, Montebello, CA 90640	78 (Including 5 at Tech Booth)	29
Community Meeting #4 - Corridor-wide	November 17, 2021 6 pm to 7:30 pm	Pico Rivera Senior Center 9200 Mines Avenue, Pico Rivera, CA 90660	117 (Including 5 at Tech Booth)	48
Total			276 (Including 18 at Tech Booths)	145

Source: Metro. Community Meetings November 2021. Attachment E of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

Prior to the meeting series in November 2021, Metro conducted outreach at six in-person community events and engaged with community members along the corridor to provide brief Project updates. **Table 1-7** lists each of these community events.

Table 1-7. 2021 Community Outreach Events Attended by Metro

Event Name	Date and Location of the Event	Engagements
East Los Angeles Certified Farmers' Market	August 28, 2021 Kern Avenue and Whittier Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90022	60
East Los Angeles Certified Farmers' Market	September 18, 2021 Kern Avenue and Whittier Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90022	75
Pico Rivera Halloween Spooktacular	October 23, 2021 Smith Park 6016 Rosemead Blvd, Pico Rivera, CA 90660	150
Commerce Movies in the Park	October 29, 2021 Rosewood Park 5600 Harbor Street, Commerce, CA 90040	15
Whittier Spooktacular 5K Marathon	October 30, 2021 Whittier Community Center 7630 Washington Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602	75
East Los Angeles Veterans Day Ceremony and Resource Fair	November 11, 2021 Los Cinco Puntos 3300 East Cesar East Chavez Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90063	60
St. Alphonsus School Holiday Pop - up	November 14, 2021 St. Alphonsus School 552 Amalia Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90022	15
Mariachi Plaza Festival - Shared fact sheets via Metro booth	November 21, 2021 1831 East Festival Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033	50
Total		440

Source: Metro. Community Meetings November 2021. Attachment E of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

1.6 2022 Public Outreach

During the November 2021 community meetings, Metro received a request to meet with businesses in East Los Angeles in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County to provide a Project update and answer questions. Metro participated in a meeting that was hosted and coordinated by the East Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Whittier Merchants Association, and Via Care on January 27, 2022. Metro met with the businesses again on March 2, 2022, ahead of the community meetings. Both meetings aimed to inform business owners and tenants of Project updates, including preliminary station design options and discuss potential impacts to businesses and mitigation measures ahead of the community meetings. **Table 1-8** lists these meetings.

Table 1-8. 2022 East Los Angeles Business Meetings for the Recirculated Draft EIR

Meeting	Date and Time	Location
Business Meeting #1 Non-Metro hosted meeting	January 27, 2022 5:30 pm to 7 pm	Via Care 501 South Atlantic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90022
Business Meeting #2 Hosted by Metro	March 3, 2022 5:30 pm to 7 pm	Virtual on Zoom In-person streaming location at Via Care 501 South Atlantic Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90022

Source: Metro (2022). Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project- East Los Angeles Business Meetings Attachment F of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

As a follow-up to the community meeting series hosted in November 2021, Metro hosted another round of update meetings in March 2022 to provide Project updates focused on specific communities and cities to share information on the ongoing station design efforts and provide stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions. Metro hosted four virtual community meetings focused on providing informational updates on the status of the Project and answering questions related to those specific updates. **Table 1-9** summarizes participation at each meeting. Further details on Community Meetings held in March 2022 can be found in Attachment F of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

Table 1-9. 2022 Public Outreach Meetings for the Recirculated Draft EIR

Meeting	Date	Tech Booth Location	Participants	Comments
Community Meeting #1 - East Los Angeles	March 9, 2022	Atlantic Avenue Park 570 S Atlantic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90022	84 (Including 7 at Tech Booth)	25
Community Meeting #2 - Commerce and Montebello	March 10, 2022	Commerce City Hall Parking Lot 2535 Commerce Way, Commerce, CA 90040	59 (Including 2 at Tech Booth)	21
Community Meeting #3 - Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Unincorporated Los Angeles County Los Nietos Community	March 16, 2022	Pico Rivera Senior Center 9200 Mines Avenue, Pico Rivera, CA 90660	89 (Including 8 at Tech Booth)	58
Community Meeting #4 - Whittier	March 17, 2022	Whittier Uptown Senior Center 13225 Walnut Street, Whittier, CA 90602	75 (Including 2 at Tech Booth)	29
Virtual Community Update Meeting	November 9, 2022	Zoom	60	23
Total			367 (Including 19 at Tech Booth)	156

Source: Metro (2022). Eastside Transit Corridor Phase 2 Project- East Los Angeles Business Meetings Attachment F of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

1.7 Government and Other Agency Consultation

A participating agency is defined in CEQA/NEPA as a federal, state, regional, county local or tribal governments with an interest in the Project. These agencies are also eligible to be participating agencies if their responsibility relate to areas within special expertise or jurisdiction. The Project included a total of 25 participating agencies. Cooperating Agencies are inclusive of the federal agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise, providing input in the areas that they oversee or by expertise. The Cooperating Agencies for this Project include USEPA, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). A complete list of Participating and Cooperating Agencies is included in Attachment C of Appendix A of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

1.8 Tribal Coordination

During preparation of the Recirculated Draft EIR, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted by letter and provided with a brief Project description and a map of the general study area (GSA). The NAHC responded to Metro on November 22, 2019 with an Assembly Bill (AB) 52 consultation list of tribes and tribal contacts who are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area. The NAHC also provided the results of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) search. The SLF search result was positive for sacred sites and the NAHC requested Metro contact the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation and the Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians for more information regarding these sites.

On December 3, 2019, a letter was sent to each of the tribes on the AB 52 consultation list. The letter was intended to initiate consultation with the tribes on both the state and federal levels, in order to comply with AB 52 and the terms of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Letters describing the GSA and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps were sent on December 3, 2019 to the following Native American representatives, identified by the NAHC as potentially having knowledge of the GSA:

- Andrew Salas, Chairperson, Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation
- Anthony Morales, Chairperson, Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Sandonne Goad, Chairperson, Gabrieleño/Tongva Nation
- Robert Dorame, Chairperson, Gabrieleño Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- Charles Alvarez, Gabrieleño-Tongva Tribe

On December 10, 2019, Andrew Salas, Chairperson, Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation, responded and requested consultation. Accordingly, a consultation meeting was held between the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation and Metro on March 25, 2020. On April 27, 2020, the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation provided additional information regarding their tribal lineage and ties to the area of direct impacts (ADI) via email.

Correspondence received and meeting minutes may be found in Confidential Attachment B (this attachment is not part of the EIR pursuant to PRC § 21082.3(c)(1)) of the Tribal Cultural Resources Impacts Report (Appendix O) of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

1.9 Other Supporting Public Outreach

1.9.1 Stakeholder Organization Outreach

The Project's outreach program engaged with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to establish communication and adapt to the communities' needs and participation preferences. In alignment with the Metro Equity Platform and the CBO Partnering Strategy, Metro has developed a CBO Roundtable Strategy for the Project. This Strategy provides an approach to collaborating with local organizations for effective outreach methods, engagement, and tools for meaningful community input. Metro

outreached to over 30 CBOs from around the communities surrounding the Project with the opportunity to give feedback and collaborate in the outreach efforts. The CBO partnership includes a total of eight CBOs that responded with interest and followed through with all steps of the onboarding process. Further information on CBOs can be found in Attachment H of Appendix S of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

1.9.2 Ongoing Public Outreach

1.9.2.1 Stakeholder Database

An initial Project database was created at the inception of the environmental phase in 2009. Since that time, the database has been maintained and expanded to include elected offices, including local, regional, state, and federal representatives; department executives of city and regional agencies; academic institutions and schools; community-based organizations; chambers of commerce; major employers; utility companies; and other key stakeholder representatives and residents of the corridor communities. The information collected in the database includes name, organization, email address, phone number, and mailing address.

The database has continued to expand as additional contacts were collected through stakeholder engagements. Maintenance of the database is ongoing to keep agency and organization contacts up-to-date prior to the start of notification for each meeting series or major announcement. New contacts are added when members of the public opt-in to receive Project communications by providing their contact information at public meetings or pop-up events. Similarly, new agency contacts are added as they participate in Project meetings or as they become directly involved. Contacts are also added as inquiries are received through the helpline, Project email, and online submission form. This database will continue to be maintained and updated throughout the life of the Project.

In addition, mailing lists were also generated for each major Project announcement to reach occupants and owners of properties that are within one-quarter mile of a proposed station, as well as those who are within a 500-foot buffer from the Project corridor.

1.9.2.2 Online communication tools

To keep stakeholders up-to-date, a Project website was developed and updated at every major Project milestone, including prior to public meeting series and as major Project updates become available. The website features the latest Project information, including fact sheets, Project maps, other collateral materials, presentations, display materials, and video recordings of past meetings.

1.9.2.3 Notification and Project Awareness Efforts

A variety of notification and informational tools were used for outreach to target audiences. Outreach methods included the following:

- Traditional methods
 - In-person meetings with cities, counties, chambers of commerce, councils of governments, educational institutions, community stakeholder groups, agency staff, and elected officials
 - Direct mail notification
 - Newspaper display ads (print and digital)
 - Placement of meeting notices in Metro light rail trains (Metro L [Gold] Line) as well as connecting Metro buses
 - Project awareness banners at highly visible locations along the Project corridor
 - Pop-up or information tables
- Public involvement opportunities
 - Public community meetings
 - The display of Project materials at other Metro project community meetings (NextGen Bus Plan, I-105 ExpressLanes, West Santa Ana Branch [WSAB] Transit Corridor)
 - Metro L (Gold) and E (Expo) Line rail tours
 - Information booths and pop-ups at various community events and at Metro L (Gold) Line stations
- Project communication tools
 - Project website
 - Project helpline
 - Project overview survey
 - Email notification
 - Social media (i.e., Facebook and Twitter)
 - Project videos (video simulation, Project overview, meeting webcasts, and recordings)
- Other targeted outreach
 - Electronic signs
 - Text messages

- The Source, Metro’s online publication
- Earned media (social media, blogs, newspapers, other media)

These notification tools and outreach efforts were customized based on the type of community meetings with a focus on maximizing cost-effectiveness and participation. A variety of informational documents were made available to the public, including Project fact sheets, Metro systemwide fact sheets (i.e., Property Acquisition, Public-Private Partnership, Rail Transit Modes, frequently asked questions), meeting notices, electronic newsletters (eblasts), and other materials.

1.9.3 Public and Agency Comment Process

Throughout the Project development process, public and agency comments have been collected through a variety of methods, including orally at in-person meetings, via the Project helpline, through the mail, via online comment forms, and via Project email. During the official scoping comment period, comments were accepted via comment cards submitted at meetings or mailed in, email, online comment form, or orally via a court reporter.

Comments regarding the Project were also made through social media or other online platforms and, when possible, the outreach team provided stakeholders with the list of approved comment methods in case they wanted their comment on the official record. Relevant comments submitted during official comment periods were incorporated into the Recirculated Draft EIR and comments were addressed by the technical team.

All comments received during the Recirculated Draft EIR public review period were compiled and responded to as part of the Recirculated Final EIR.

1.10 Draft EIR Release and Public Hearings

The Recirculated Draft EIR was released for public review for 60 days from June 30, 2022 through August 29, 2022. To inform agencies, stakeholders, and the community about the release of the Recirculated Draft EIR, a notice of availability was distributed through agencies, organizations, elected officials, and other interested parties. A newspaper notice was published in the Los Angeles Times, La Opinion (Spanish), Whittier Daily News, and Eastside Sun. In addition, Metro distributed a public mailer that included information on the release of the Recirculated Draft EIR, how to access the document, ways to provide comments, details on the community information sessions and public hearings, and how to use the new virtual interactive tool. Community pop-up events were held to provide additional information to the public surrounding the availability of the Draft EIR for review and comment. Other outreach efforts included social media postings, a second mailing, display of banners, distribution of flyers and lawn signs, distribution of a toolkit to stakeholders for spreading the information to other neighborhood and community members, slides provided to cities for posting on their cable channel, and postings on Metro’s website and news blog.

The Recirculated Draft EIR was made available online at the California State Clearinghouse website, the Metro project webpage, and StoryMap, and printed copies were made available at the seven repository sites along the corridor and at Metro Headquarters. Hard copies of the Recirculated Draft EIR were available for public review at the following locations:

- Metro Headquarters, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles
- East Los Angeles Library, 4837 E 3rd Street, East Los Angeles
- Commerce Public Library, 5655 Jillson Street, Commerce
- Chet Holifield County Library, 1060 S Greenwood Avenue, Montebello
- Los Nietos County Library, 8511 Duchess Drive, Whittier
- Whittier Public Library, 7344 Washington Avenue, Whittier

The public was able to comment on the Recirculated Draft EIR at public hearings, via an online comment form, U.S. mail, and a dedicated helpline (for voice-recorded comments) for the Project. Metro conducted four public hearings – three in-person and one virtual with in-person remote viewing access at a central site along the corridor – to provide information on the Recirculated Draft EIR and receive verbal and written public comments. Metro staff was also available to informally answer questions and provide information in a workshop-type setting immediately before and after the formal public hearings. **Table 1-10** lists the public hearing meetings during the circulation of the Recirculated Draft EIR.

Table 1-10. 2022 Public Hearings for the Recirculated Draft EIR

Meeting	Date and Location	Participants	Comments
Public Hearing #1 East Los Angeles (In Person)	July 21, 2022 6 pm to 8 pm Kaiser Permanente Medical Offices (Northeast Parking Lot) 5119 Pomona Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90022	19 attendees	7 Oral Comment 0 Comment Cards
Public Hearing #2 Montebello (In Person)	July 30, 2022 10 am to 12 pm Applied Technology Center High School 1200 W Mines Avenue, Montebello, CA 90640	32 attendees	8 Oral Comment 5 Comment Cards
Public Hearing #3 Pico Rivera and Virtual (Online)	August 11, 2022 6 pm to 8 pm Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/3k8pms7f Call-In Number: 213.338.8477 Meeting ID: 814 9183 9547	71 attendees (57 Virtual Zoom) (14 In-Person)	0 Oral Comment 1 Comment Cards
Public Hearing #4 Whittier (In Person)	August 17, 2022 6 pm to 8 pm Whittier Community Center (Gymnasium) 7630 Washington Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602	42 attendees	13 Oral Comment 2 Comment Cards
TOTAL		164 attendees	28 Oral Comment 8 Comment Cards

Source: Metro (2024). **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.** lists the coordination meetings between Metro and agencies having jurisdiction.

Table 1-11. 2022 Coordination Meetings with Agencies Having Jurisdiction for the Recirculated Draft EIR

Meeting	Meeting Type	Date	Participants
Briefing with Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo	Agency Briefings	October 31, 2023	Metro Staff Only
Meeting with FTA	Agency Briefings	October 30, 2023	Metro/AECOM Staff
Gateway Cities Council of Governments Briefing	Agency Briefings	October 4, 2023	Metro Staff Only
Gateway Cities Council of Governments Transportation Committee	Elected & City Briefings	August 3, 2022	Metro Staff Only

Source: Metro (2024).

1.11 Selection of Locally Preferred Alternative

On December 1, 2022, the Metro Board selected Alternative 3 with the Atlantic/Pomona Station Option, the Montebello At-Grade Option, and the Montebello MSF as the LPA. Factors evaluated in selecting the LPA included consideration of the environmentally superior alternative identified in the Recirculated Draft EIR, as well as which Build Alternative had the best opportunity for federal funding opportunities relative to meeting the federal requirements for local funding commitment and the timeline of required coordination with regulatory agencies. (Alternative 1 would require extensive coordination with the California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE].)

In addition to identifying the LPA as Alternative 3 with the design options and the Montebello MSF, the Metro Board of Directors adopted a motion for continuing the CEQA process for the LPA and the full alignment with a terminus at Lambert station in Whittier (Alternative 1). The Metro Board did not advance Alternative 2 for further environmental evaluation in the Final EIR because it would only connect to the Commerce MSF, which would have a significant unavoidable impact on cultural resources and would not continue east to connect to the environmentally superior Montebello MSF option. Pursuant to the Metro Board motion, this Final EIR advances Alternative 1 with the design options and the Montebello MSF and Alternative 3 with the design options and the Montebello MSF.

While the Metro Board is not advancing Alternative 2 to the Final EIR, Chapter 3, Corrections and Additions, and Chapter 4, Responses to Comments, address all alternatives, design options, and MSF site options evaluated in Recirculated Draft EIR.

1.12 Release of the Final EIR

In support of the Final EIR release, public engagement will be conducted to announce this important milestone and provide updates on the anticipated next steps for Metro Board certification.

During the Final EIR release and leading up to Metro Board certification, ongoing public engagement activities and project updates will continue to be broadly available to project stakeholders in digital, physical, and in-person formats. As part of the Project's expansive public involvement efforts, existing partnerships with community-based organizations will be arranged to execute further outreach to key audiences, including youth, seniors, and other future transit riders of the Project.