



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

June 2, 2017

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

PAW

**FROM: THERESE W. MCMILLAN
CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER**

TWC

**SUBJECT: WESTSIDE PURPLE LINE EXTENSION - SECTION 2
RELEASE OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT**

ISSUE

Today the Federal Register published a notice indicating the release of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS) for a 45-day comment period for the Westside Purple Line Extension Section 2.

DISCUSSION

In April and May 2012, the Metro Board of Directors certified the Purple Line Extension Environmental Impact Report (EIR). In August of 2012, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the project EIS signifying the completion of federal environmental review. Later that year, the City of Beverly Hills and the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) filed a state lawsuit against Metro over the sufficiency of the EIR with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which was resolved in Metro's favor in December 2015.

The City of Beverly Hills and BHUSD also filed a federal lawsuit against the FTA over the sufficiency of the EIS with regard to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In August 2016, the federal judge overseeing that lawsuit ordered FTA to conduct additional environmental review on the Project through the preparation of a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) and Section 4(f) Evaluation. The judge did not vacate the ROD which has allowed Metro to continue advancing work on the project while completing the additional environmental tasks.

The judge's decision focused on a portion of Section 2 of the Project pertaining to the location of the Century City Station and the alignment of the tunnel through the western portion of Beverly Hills to reach that station. Specifically, the judge ordered that the SEIS address the following:

- Evaluate additional “hot spot” air quality impacts during construction & feasibility of mitigation;
- Evaluate potential risks of soil gas migration from tunneling or other construction & feasibility of mitigation;
- Provide available seismic risk information;
- Provide and discuss new seismic & ridership studies regarding Section 2 that have become available since release of the Draft EIS in 2011; and
- Identify direct & constructive “use” of Beverly Hills High School from construction & operations of the Project on, beneath or near the Beverly Hills High School & evaluate alternatives.

While the federal court ruling is directed at the FTA as the lead federal agency under NEPA, Metro is the project sponsor and has participated fully in the preparation of the Draft SEIS. This Supplemental EIS builds upon and enhances the original studies. In complying with the court order, Metro has conducted additional analysis, reviewed new studies that have been completed since the original EIS/EIR and added additional mitigation measures to further address issues related to impacts from construction and operation of the project. The SEIS has determined that the original Project station location and alignment, as approved in 2012, is still the best alternative from a ridership and seismic safety perspective. It also can be constructed and operated safely. The Purple Line schedule is not anticipated to be affected by this analysis and the new proposed mitigation measures in the SEIS. Any budget impacts will be determined when the SEIS is completed, but are not expected to be significant.

The details of these findings are contained in the Draft SEIS which is posted on the Project website (metro.net/purple) and has been made available at libraries throughout the study area. The Executive Summary at the front of the SEIS document summarizes how it addresses the court order. Comments are being accepted through July 17, 2017 in writing and also at a public hearing scheduled for June 22nd, 6:00 PM at Roxbury Park in Beverly Hills. We are promoting availability of the Draft SEIS and the various opportunities to comment by sending out postcards to addresses in the Beverly Hills/Century City area, emails to our database, a press release and stories on The Source and extensive social media exposure.

NEXT STEPS

After the comment period closes, the comments will be reviewed and a Final SEIS will be prepared including responses to those comments and an amended ROD. County Counsel will continue to support the Department of Justice attorneys in ongoing matters concerning the lawsuit. The Final SEIS is expected to be published in the Fall. We will continue to keep the Board informed as these issues move forward.