



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

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TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

**SUBJECT: WESTSIDE PURPLE LINE EXTENSION – SECTION 2 PROJECT
RELEASE OF FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT**

ISSUE

Today, a notice was published in the Federal Register announcing the release of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final SEIS) and Supplemental Record of Decision (ROD) for the Westside Purple Line Extension Section 2 Project (Project).

DISCUSSION

In April and May 2012, the Metro Board of Directors certified the Westside Purple Line Extension Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), followed by a Record of Decision (ROD) that was issued by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in August 2012. That original ROD signified the completion of federal environmental review.

The City of Beverly Hills and Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) filed federal lawsuits in February 2013 and November 2012 respectively against the FTA over the sufficiency of the EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act. In August 2016, the federal Judge overseeing the lawsuits ordered FTA to conduct an additional environmental review of the Project through the preparation of a Supplemental EIS (SEIS).

The federal Judge's decision focused on a portion of the Project pertaining to the location of the Century City Constellation station and the alignment of the tunnel through the western portion of Beverly Hills to reach Century City. Specifically, the Judge ordered the FTA to:

- Evaluate additional "hot spot" air quality impacts during construction and the feasibility of mitigation measures to address those impacts;

- Evaluate the potential risks of soil gas migration from tunneling and other construction activities and the feasibility of mitigation measures;
- Provide available seismic risk information;
- Provide and discuss new seismic and ridership studies regarding the Project that became available since release of the Draft EIS in 2011; and
- Identify actual and constructive “use” of Beverly Hills High School from construction and operation of the Project and evaluate alternatives under Section 4(f).

While the federal court ruling is directed at the FTA as the lead agency under NEPA, Metro is the project sponsor and has participated fully in the preparation of the Draft and Final SEIS, which builds upon and enhances the original environmental studies. In complying with the court order, Metro conducted additional analyses, reviewed new studies that were 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. This Final SEIS and Section 4(f) Evaluation also analyzes the relocation of construction staging activities for the Century City Constellation Station, the removal of the train cross-over at the Wilshire/Rodeo Station, and changes to land uses adjacent to the construction staging areas in Century City. The SEIS confirms that the original Project alignment and Century City station location at Constellation/Avenue of the Stars, as approved in 2012, are still the best alternative from a ridership, seismic safety, and environmental impact perspective. It also can be constructed and operated safely.

The official comment period for the Draft SEIS was initially scheduled for 45 days from June 2, 2017 through July 17, 2017, but was extended to July 24, 2017. A public hearing on the Draft SEIS was held June 22, 2017 during the Draft SEIS public comment period at Roxbury Park Community Center in Beverly Hills.

The publication of the Final SEIS and Supplemental ROD signifies the completion of the FTA’s supplemental review and environmental studies required by the court to move the Project forward. Any changes to the Project resulting from the SEIS and amended ROD are not expected to have a significant impact on the project cost or schedule.

Information on the Final SEIS including the Section 4(f) Evaluation are available online at www.metro.net/purple.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue preparation of the administrative record for judicial review if needed, and work to deliver the Project on schedule and on budget.