



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**MAY 11, 2020**

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**FROM: SHAHRZAD AMIRI** SA  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CONGESTION REDUCTION**

**SUBJECT: I-105 EXPRESSLANES DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL  
DOCUMENT (ED) RELEASE**

**ISSUE**

The I-105 ExpressLanes project will be releasing a draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA), draft Project Report, Concept of Operations (ConOps), and Traffic and Revenue Study to the public for review and comment on Friday, May 22. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, a comprehensive outreach and notification strategy including a virtual open house and a live presentation will be utilized to inform the public and gather public comment.

**BACKGROUND**

The I-105 ExpressLanes project is studying the potential implementation of ExpressLanes on I-105 between I-405 and Studebaker Road in the City of Norwalk. This project is a joint Caltrans-Metro project with Caltrans preparing the ED and Metro preparing preliminary engineering. Three alternatives are analyzed in the ED: Alternative 1 - no build, Alternative 2 - conversion of the existing HOV lane into a single ExpressLane, and Alternative 3 - dual ExpressLanes in each direction through the conversion of the existing HOV lane and the addition of a second ExpressLane. The draft EIR/EA identifies Alternative 3 as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

Four documents have been prepared for this project: the draft EIR/EA, draft Project Report, Concept of Operations, and an Investment Grade Traffic and

Revenue Study. These four documents will be released to the public for review and comment on Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 for 46 days, closing on Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Outreach for the ED will be through print and digital newspaper ads, an e-blast, letters to elected officials, a trifold mailer to properties along the corridor, Facebook targeted advertising, a virtual open house, the Metro website, and a live presentation. In addition, certain properties will receive certified letters regarding potential soundwall construction.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) will be placed in print newspapers including the Downey Patriot, Norwalk Patriot, LA Sentinel, Los Angeles Times, Compton Herald, Wave Publications, El Segundo Herald, Inglewood Daily News, and La Opinion. The NOA will run in each newspaper twice at the beginning of the public comment period and again before the live presentation. Online digital newspaper ads will be run for either a week or a month depending on the publication.

The e-blast will be sent out to all those parties that have supplied their email address for project updates at any of our previous outreach events, pop-ups, or project website.

Caltrans will send out letters of notification to elected officials (federal, state and local), agencies, academic institutions, neighborhood councils, business associations, and emergency responders.

CEQA requires direct mailing of project information to owners and occupants of contiguous property adjacent to the project. Metro's plan is to mail trifold pamphlets to these properties and all addresses within 750 feet of the edge of the freeway, which is about 28,000 mailers. By doing so, Metro is exceeding CEQA requirements. The trifold mailers include summary details of the project, how to access documents, and how to submit comments. Facebook advertising will also be used and targeted at zip codes along the corridor.

As part of the EIR/EA, new soundwalls along the freeway have been identified that are considered feasible and reasonable, which is defined as a 7 decibel or greater sound reduction and a construction cost within Caltrans guidelines. For properties identified as benefiting from the new soundwalls, letters will be sent to each property asking whether they would like the soundwall to be built. If more than 50% of property owners vote in favor then the soundwall will be built.

Because current state and local guidance/orders have suspended all public gatherings, Metro will instead utilize an online virtual open house, the Metro project webpage ([metro.net/105ExpressLanes](http://metro.net/105ExpressLanes)) to provide the reports, maps, presentations, and fact sheets to the public, and a live presentation with a Q&A session.

The virtual open house ([105virtualforum.com](http://105virtualforum.com)) will contain guided and narrated presentations on various subsections of the project (e.g. traffic, alternatives

comparison) along with an interactive map with multiple data layers to view project effects and information (e.g. structure widenings, lane layouts). The virtual open house site is also mobile-friendly to allow people to access it on their smartphones.

The live presentation will be on Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6pm. The live presentation will include a presentation as would be done at an in-person public hearing followed by a moderated Q&A session that will allow the public to submit questions on the project. The link to the live presentation is at [metro.net/105expresslanes](https://metro.net/105expresslanes) and [105virtualforum.com](https://105virtualforum.com). In addition, a call-in phone number will be provided for those without computer access to listen in. The call in number for English is 213-458-5634 (ID 433 164 484#) and Spanish is 213-458-5634 (ID 417 726 835#).

### **NEXT STEPS**

Metro staff will work with Caltrans to review the public comments received during the comment period and revise project documents as necessary. The final EIR/EA is expected to be completed in Fall 2020.