



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**June 10, 2015**

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**FROM: MARTHA WELBORNE, FAIA** *MW*  
**CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL CONNECTOR TRANSIT CORRIDOR  
PROJECT; RELEASE OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**ISSUE**

The Regional Connector Transit Corridor Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS) is scheduled for public release on June 12, 2015. This document provides further information on tunnel construction alternatives on Flower Street and why they were eliminated from consideration for the project.

**BACKGROUND**

The Draft SEIS was prepared to address the Order of the United States District Court for the Central District of California. The Judgment and Order for Partial Injunctive Relief by the Honorable John A. Kronstadt on May 28, 2014 and September 9, 2014, respectively, requires that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as the federal lead agency pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with Metro explain why Open-Face Tunneling alternatives were rejected on the Lower Flower Segment in downtown Los Angeles. This Draft SEIS is a limited-scope document and is intended to provide more information on the tunnel construction alternatives on Flower Street that were withdrawn from consideration, specifically Open-Face Shield and Sequential Excavation Method (SEM) tunneling for the Regional Connector project alignment between 4<sup>th</sup> Street and the 7<sup>th</sup> Street/Metro Center Station, as required by the Judgment.

The DSEIS will be released for public circulation and comment, however, it will not change the current project under construction nor will it require Board action. The Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) remains as identified in the Certified 2012 Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Final EIS/EIR) and Record of Decision (ROD) issued by the FTA on June 29, 2012.

The public review period for the Draft SEIS begins on June 12, 2015 and ends on July 27, 2015. The Draft SEIS will be available on Metro's website at [www.metro.net/projects/connector](http://www.metro.net/projects/connector) and at public libraries along the alignment and connecting light rail lines.

Public hearings will be held on June 30, 2015 from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm at the Los Angeles Central Library, Mark Taper Auditorium, 630 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071 and on July 7, 2015 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Japanese American National Museum, 100 N. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Comments received on the document will be incorporated into the Final SEIS anticipated for release in August, 2015. The FTA may issue a single Final SEIS and ROD document or may decide to issue a Final SEIS followed by an amendment to the ROD, as needed. The Board will be informed once the FTA issues their determination, or as other events occur related to the release of this document.