

Progress on the Environmental Study Continues

This edition of the Expo Phase 2 E-Newsletter provides an update on the environmental study that is underway, a re-cap of the recent community workshops held and a Phase 2 schedule update. Following on the heels of April's Earth Day celebrations, we've also provided some facts from the American Public Transportation Association detailing public transportation's contribution to both energy savings and U.S. greenhouse gas reduction.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR) Update

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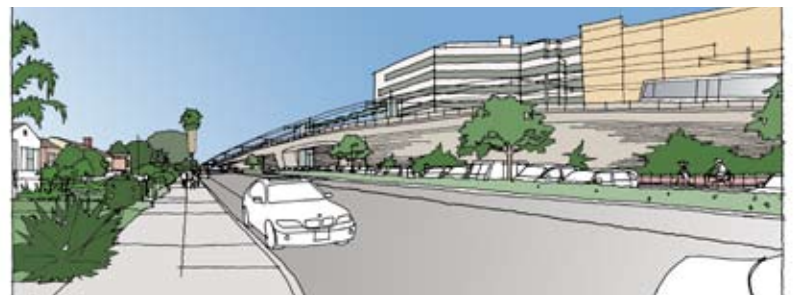
The Exposition Construction Authority's (Authority) Phase 2 engineers, planners and staff have diligently been working to analyze potential grade separations, station and parking locations and environmental impacts, as well as locations for a maintenance facility needed to support Expo's light rail operations. Furthermore, the Authority is no longer studying Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as an option, but rather is focusing on Light Rail Transit (LRT) as the preferred mode of transportation for this corridor.

The City of Santa Monica has also requested that the consultant analyze two alignment options in their city—the first is to travel down the median of Olympic Boulevard, and the second is to travel down the middle of Colorado Avenue.

Station and parking locations as well as grade crossings have also undergone extensive analysis, and results were presented to the community. Grade crossing studies are ongoing as the environmental work continues.

In order to store, repair and maintain light rail trains, locations for a maintenance facility are being explored. Several sites have been considered and were also presented to the public, and the DEIS/DEIS will analyze one or more sites.

For details regarding the latest findings in the environmental planning process, please visit the project website at BuildExpo.org and click on the Phase 2 Tab, where you can access a PowerPoint presentation.



Before and After images of the proposed Bundy Station area

Community Workshops, March/April 2008

Three community workshops were recently held along the Expo Phase 2 alignments inviting the public's ongoing participation in the environmental process. The meetings provided information on the proposed grade crossings, station and parking locations, bike routes, the Santa Monica terminus alternatives and on the potential environmental impacts identified. The workshops were very productive, with over 300 stakeholders in attendance, many of whom submitted comments in writing.

At the conclusion of these open houses, 168 written comments were received from stakeholders who had the opportunity to both ask questions and voice their concerns at the various stations staffed by Phase 2 engineers and planners.



Stephen Polechronis, (M), Project Manager, DMJM Harris Environmental Planning Team, reviews station site plans at the Webster Middle School workshop.

Some of the key issues raised by stakeholders included concerns for grade crossings at Westwood and Overland, noise impacts of the light rail along the right-of-way, a continuous bike path along the alignment, and specific station and parking locations. All written comments received at these community workshops have been posted to the project website at BuildExpo.org under the Phase 2 tab.

Prior to release of the DEIS/DEIR and upon further analysis by the Phase 2 team to determine the remaining grade crossings, the Authority will work with local community organizations to provide updates.

Did You Know?

Access to Bus and Rail Lines Reduces Driving by 4,400 Miles per Household, Saves 4.2 Billion Gallons of Gasoline and 37 Million Metric Tons of Carbon

In the February 2008 "Broadening the Connection between Public Transportation and Energy Conservation" study prepared for the American Public Transportation Association by ICF International, it was found that the most energy efficient households in America (i.e. those that produce the least amount of carbon) are located within close proximity of a bus or rail line.

The study also found that communities choosing to invest in public transportation reduce the nation's carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons annually – equivalent to the electricity used by 4.9 million households. To achieve a similar reduction in carbon emissions, every household in New York City, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Denver and Los Angeles combined would have to completely stop using electricity!

People living in households near public transit travel 12 fewer miles per day which is 27 percent less than persons in households with no access to public transit, according to the study. This equates to an individual household reduction of 223 gallons of gasoline a year. To view the full report, go to:

http://www.apta.com/research/info/online/land_use.cfm

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Expo Phase 2 project, and/or would like to request a presentation from the project team, please contact:

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