

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of the purpose and focus of this Environmental Impact Report (EIR), a discussion of the intended use of this EIR, a description of the organization of the EIR, and a discussion of the public review process and potential areas of controversy.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning (DCP) has prepared this EIR in compliance with Section 15121(a) of the State Guidelines and the City of Los Angeles Guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Division 6 in order to inform the general public, the local community, and responsible and interested public agencies of the nature of the proposed projects, their possible environmental effects, possible measures to mitigate those effects, and alternatives to the proposed projects.

The determination that the City of Los Angeles is the “lead agency” is made in accordance with Sections 15051 and 15367 of the CEQA Guidelines, which define the lead agency as the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. This EIR reflects the independent judgment of the City regarding the potential environmental impacts, the level of significance of the impacts both before and after mitigation, and the mitigation measures proposed to reduce impacts.

As described in CEQA and CEQA Guidelines, public agencies are charged with the duty to avoid or substantially lessen significant environmental impacts, where feasible. A public agency has an obligation to balance a project’s significant impacts on the environment with other considerations, including economic, social, technological, legal, and other benefits. This EIR is an informational document, the purpose of which is to identify the potential impacts of the proposed project on the environment. This document assesses the potential significant environmental impacts, including significant unavoidable impacts and cumulative impacts, resulting from the implementation of the proposed *Mobility Plan 2035* (MP 2035 or proposed project). Where there is potential for a significant adverse impact, this report identifies mitigation measures that would either eliminate the impact or reduce the impact to the maximum extent feasible. This EIR also identifies a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed project that could reduce the impacts as compared to the project.

1.2 AUTHORIZATION AND FOCUS

This EIR has been prepared in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines, as amended to date. Specifically, this document evaluates the environmental effects that could result from implementation of the proposed project. The following topic areas are addressed in this EIR:

- Transportation and Traffic
- Land Use
- Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gases
- Noise and Vibration
- Biological Resources
- Cumulative Impacts
- Alternatives

1.3 LEAD AGENCY

In accordance with Section 15367 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Lead Agency for the proposed project is the City of Los Angeles DCP. The lead agency is “the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the project.” The contact person for the City of Los Angeles DCP is:

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1.4 EIR ORGANIZATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION. This chapter contains an overview of the purpose and focus of the EIR, a discussion of the intended use of this EIR, a description of the organization of the EIR, and a discussion of the public review process and potential areas of controversy.

2.0 SUMMARY. This chapter provides a summary of the proposed projects, its potential environmental effects and mitigation measures, and a summary of the alternatives to the proposed projects evaluated in this EIR.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION. This chapter describes the project location, existing conditions, project objectives, project benefits and a description of the proposed projects.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. This chapter contains the environmental setting, project analyses, mitigation measures, and conclusions regarding the level of significance after mitigation for each of the following environmental issues:

- 4.1 Transportation, Parking, and Safety
- 4.2 Land Use and Planning
- 4.3 Air Quality
- 4.4 Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 4.5 Noise and Vibration
- 4.6 Biological Resources

5.0 ALTERNATIVES. This chapter provides analysis of each of the alternatives to the proposed projects. The alternatives considered for the proposed projects are:

- Alternative 1 -- No Project
- Alternative 2 -- Less Comprehensive Mobility Improvements

6.0 OTHER CEQA CONSIDERATION. This chapter provides a discussion of (1) cumulative impacts, (2) the significant irreversible environmental changes that would result from implementation of the proposed project, (3) growth-inducing impacts of the proposed project, (4) significant environmental effects that cannot be avoided, and (5) environmental effects of the proposed project found not to be significant.

7.0 REPORT AUTHORS, PERSONS AND SOURCES CONSULTED. This chapter identifies the lead agency and consultants and the persons, public agencies, and organizations that were consulted or contributed and the references and sources used in the preparation of this EIR.

1.5 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, the City published a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this Draft EIR on April 4, 2013, for a 30-day public comment period. Because the meeting locations and dates were switched in the original NOP, a Scoping Meeting Location Correction Notice to the NOP was issued on April 10, 2013, which extended the comment period an additional 30 days to May 6, 2013. A total of 33 comment letters were received. Information, data, and observations resulting from these letters are included throughout this Draft EIR where relevant. Refer to Appendix A for copies of the NOP and NOP comment letters. Public scoping meetings were held on April 16, 2013 and April 22, 2013 to receive community input on the proposed project and the scope of the Draft EIR.

This Draft EIR is being circulated for a 90-day public review period. Responsible and trustee agencies and the public are invited to comment in writing on the information contained in this document. Persons and agencies commenting are encouraged to provide information that they believe is missing from the Draft EIR and to identify where the information can be obtained. During the review period the Draft EIR is available for general public review online at www.lacity.org and at the following locations:

City Hall

200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Van Nuys Civic Center

14410 Sylvan Street
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Central Library

630 W. 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Exposition Park Library

3900 S. Western Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90062

San Pedro Library

931 S. Gaffey Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Arroyo Seco Library

6145 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90042

North Hollywood Library

5211 Tujanga Avenue
North Hollywood, CA 91601

Mid-Valley Library

16244 Nordhoff Street
North Hills, CA 91343

West Valley Library

19036 Vanowen Street
Reseda, CA 91335

Goldwyn-Hollywood Library

1623 N. Ivar Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90028

West Los Angeles Library

11360 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Additionally, the Draft EIR can be downloaded or reviewed via the Internet at the Department of City Planning's website [<http://planning.lacity.org/> (click on "Environmental" and then "Draft Environmental Impact Reports")]. The Draft EIR can be purchased on cd-rom for \$7.50 per copy. Contact **My La** of the City of Los Angeles at My.La@lacity.org for purchase.

Interested parties may provide written comments on the Draft EIR. Comments may be submitted electronically to My La at: My.La@lacity.org. Written comments on the Draft EIR must be received by 4:00 pm on May 13, 2014 and should be addressed to:

My La

Department of City Planning
200 N. Spring Street, Room 667, MS 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Upon completion of the public review period, written responses to all comments on environmental issues discussed in the Draft EIR and raised by commenters will be prepared and incorporated into the Final EIR. These comments, and their responses, will be included in the Final EIR for consideration by the City of Los Angeles, as well as other public decision-makers.

1.6 AREAS OF CONTROVERSY/ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED

Potential areas of controversy and issues to be resolved by the City's decision-makers include those environmental issue areas where the potential for an unavoidable and significant impact has been identified. For this project, noise from increased bus operations along certain routes, the biological effects that could occur from widening outside the street right-of-ways and congestion in certain areas of the City would remain significant after mitigation. Based on the NOP comment letters, issues known to be of concern in the community include traffic and transportation, and coordination with other future projects that are to be developed in proximity to individual improvements included in the overall package of improvements that comprise the proposed project. There is a great deal of support for multi-modal improvements in the City of Los Angeles however, there is concern regarding the necessity to balance those improvements by minimizing the impact on surrounding land uses and the vehicular circulation system. Refer to Appendix A for copies of the NOP comment letters.