

# SR 710 EIR/EIS TAC Meeting No. 14 – Staff Notes

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On Wednesday February 19, 2014, Metro held its 14<sup>th</sup> SR 710 North Technical Advisory Committee meeting at Metro headquarters. Metro's staff and the consultant Technical Team (TT) presented information on the following items:

1. Public Outreach Update
2. Project Report and Environmental Studies Documentation Update
3. Update on Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Technical Studies
4. Next Steps

**1. Public Outreach Update:** Metro's staff provided general information about the format of future Public Hearings for the Draft EIR/DEIS. At this point it is anticipated that there will be at least two public hearings for the project where members of the public can provide written or verbal comments on the adequacy of the environmental document. The comment period for the DEIR/DEIS is 60 days, however, at the direction of the Metro Board, Metro and Caltrans staff are discussing the potential for extension of the comment period to 90 days.

**2. Project Report and Environmental Studies Documentation Update:** The update included the following elements:

Recap of Previous TAC Meeting: The Technical Team provided a recap of the highlights of the feedback received during the last TAC meeting. These feedbacks are reported on Slides 7-9.

Fact Checks: This agenda item was intended to clarify what are characterized as misstatements of prior studies or misinterpretations of TT statements. Items discussed included the following as shown on Slides 11 and 12:

- Issues related to how dust generated during the construction will be controlled.
- Providing information that despite claims, less than 1% of the traffic coming through the tunnel will be Port trucks.

**3. Update on Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Technical Studies:** This update included:

Preliminary Engineering Update: The consultant team is currently addressing Metro and Caltrans comments on the draft reports and involved in developing tunnel drainage system, stage construction review, construction schedule and equipment needs, and developing cost estimates and cost-benefit analysis.

Environmental Studies Update: Revising several studies, drafting technical studies for review by Metro and Caltrans, and incorporating refinements to design to minimize impacts. The status of various technical studies is shown on Slides 16-25.

CEQA/NEPA Process and Public Review: Information was provided on the CEQA/NEPA Process and how Public Comments will be received. This information is reflected on Slides 26-28. Comments on the Draft EIR/EIS will be accepted via written comments submitted via the Draft EIR/EIS Website and via verbal comments at public hearings. Comments should address substantive concerns on the technical analysis provided in the DEIR/DEIS.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Growth: Research, Forecasts and Trends: The consultant team provided a series of slides providing information on 7 major Factors Influencing VMT. These are reflected on Slides 29-60.

#### 4. Next Steps

- Continue to Evaluate Performance of Build alternatives
  - Continue with Technical Studies
  - Continue with Preliminary Engineering and Reports
  - Continue preparation of the Draft Environmental Document
  - Expected release of the Draft EIR/EIS - Spring 2014
- **Study Schedule:** The current study schedule provided by Metro shows:
- Draft Environmental Document to be released Spring 2014
  - Public Comment period to be held for 60 to 90 days (to be determined)
  - Final Environmental Document to be completed by June 2015
- **Next Meeting:** The next Metro TAC meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2014.

These staff notes and a copy of the Metro's PowerPoint Presentation for this TAC meeting are being posted on the City's SR-710 Website at <http://cityofpasadena.net/SR710/>.

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