

Valley Residents View Landscaping Plans for Metro Rapidway

By NED RACINE

(Nov. 26, 2003) Filling meeting rooms with landscape renderings and live plants, an MTA Community Relations team held its first two meetings, last week, to gather public feedback on proposed landscape plans for the San Fernando Valley Metro Rapidway.

Construction of the Metro Rapidway, a dedicated busway that will carry passengers between Warner Center and the North Hollywood Metro Rail station, began in September 2003.

The Metro Rapidway team met with Van Nuys and Lake Balboa residents, Nov. 17, to solicit comments on landscaping plans for stations, corridors, the bikeway and pedestrian way along the 14-mile project.

Attendees viewed some 30 renderings and many completed a comment form. A five-foot by ten-foot arrangement highlighted plants representative of the preliminary landscape designs.

Residents' comments will be compiled to guide the Metro Rapidway's Landscape Advisory Committee in making recommendations for the final design. City Council members whose districts fall along the Metro Rapidway's route selected the Committee members.

At the Nov. 20 meeting at Pierce College, residents from Encino, Reseda, Tarzana, and Woodland Hills viewed architectural renderings and aerial photographs of the busway, bike path, and pedestrian path and discussed the project with the landscape architect, project management team, and planning manager.

The next two meetings will be held Dec. 3 and Dec. 6.

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Devon Brown, of MTA's Community Relations Team, describes the plants contained in a representative patch of landscaping along one section of the Metro Rapidway. Below, Panorama City resident Steven Hernandez talks with Kathleen Sanchez of MTA's San Fernando Valley/North County Area Team about the plant palette from which the preliminary landscape plans were taken. The live plants behind them were brought to the meeting to help residents visualize the scale of the plantings.

