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Metro Solicits Proposals for ‘Downtown Connector’ Alternatives

- Connector would unify Metro’s light-rail system

(Jan. 31, 2007) Metro is taking an important step toward possible construction of a regional connector, sometimes called the “downtown connector,” that would unify LA’s light-rail system.

The agency issued a request for proposals (RFP), Jan. 29, soliciting firms to perform an alternatives analysis of the proposed project, which could be a light-rail line linking the Metro Blue, Expo and Green Line networks with the Metro Gold Line serving Pasadena and East LA.

The RFP includes an option to expand the alternatives analysis into draft and final environmental impact statements and reports, if approved by the Metro Board.

The alternatives analysis will include a variety of at-grade, elevated, and subway alternatives, plus a no-build option. Operationally, a light rail connector allows Metro to consolidate yard and maintenance facilities for all lines.

Previous studies dating back several years focused on various ways to build a light-rail line from the 7th and Metro station that could include “at-grade” tracks and “street running,” but no specific alignment was recommended. A 2005 report said a fully underground alignment was not considered financially practical.

