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## Metro Moving Forward on Proposed Orange Line Extension

- Public meetings next week to discuss environmental impact report

By RICK JAGER

(July 19, 2007) Metro will take the next step toward construction of the proposed four-mile northern extension of the Orange Line, later this month, by seeking public comment at two meetings in the San Fernando Valley.

Meetings are scheduled July 26 and 30 to discuss the scope of the project's draft Environmental Impact Report. The EIR will examine several alternatives for the northern extension.

The proposed linkage between the Orange Line's Canoga station and the Chatsworth Metrolink station would expand transit options between the San Fernando Valley and Ventura County areas.

A two-mile on-street extension from the Metrolink station to the SR-118 Freeway, being considered as part of the environmental process, would include a park/ride lot that would provide additional transit connections for freeway vehicle commuters coming to and from Simi Valley and beyond.

In March, the Board approved a \$5.95 million contract for environmental clearance and preliminary engineering for the proposed northern extension that would connect the Canoga Station with the Metrolink Station and a possible on-street extension to the SR-118 Freeway.

### Evaluate alternatives

Metro will evaluate various alternatives, including running the line along Canoga Avenue, the Canoga Rail Right-of-Way, De Soto Avenue, and Topanga Canyon Boulevard and other potential alternatives that may be recommended by the public through the scoping process.

The meetings will be held from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, July 26, at Chatsworth High School, 10027 Lurline Ave. in Chatsworth; and from 7-9 p.m., July 30, at the New Academy of Canoga Park, 21425 Cohasset St. in Canoga Park.

At the meetings, the Metro staff will present the proposed project goals and objectives, provide opportunities to speak with project representatives and display project maps and photographs. Written and verbal comments by the public will be included in the draft Environmental Impact Report.

Metro's draft EIR is scheduled to be finalized and presented to the Metro Board of Directors for consideration in 2008.

