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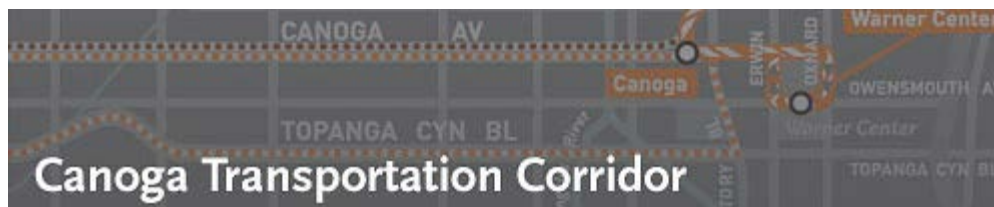
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## Metro Releases Draft Environmental Report for Canoga Corridor Project

- Public Meetings Scheduled for March 19, 26

By NED RACINE, Editor

(March 5, 2008) In a sign of progress for the proposed northern extension of the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley, Metro has released its Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Canoga Transportation Corridor. Two meetings will be held in March to receive public comment.

A proposed four-mile extension of Metro Orange Line service, the project would connect the Canoga Park & Ride Lot to the Chatsworth Metrolink Station, allowing Metro to increase north-south mobility in the western area of the Valley.

Based on community input, Metro has narrowed the project alternatives to be studied as part of the environmental review process. One alternative would extend the existing Metro Orange Line along Metro's right-of-way. Another option would build a Canoga Avenue Busway that would operate on a bus-only lane along a widened Canoga Avenue.

Initial analysis indicates the right of way construction would be less expensive.

Either option would require land on the east side of Canoga Avenue; the great majority of that land, according to Walt Davis, transportation planning manager, is owned by Metro. Davis notes that Metro has already notified those leasing its land that it may build a transportation project.

"We did some modeling and modeling indicated that the ridership on [either option] would be very good," Davis said. "For a four-mile alignment it would attract about 10,000 new riders a day and attract new riders to the existing Orange Line."

Either option would also include a Class 1 bikeway and pedestrian way, as does the Orange Line. The four-mile extension would include four new stations and a 255-space parking lot at Sherman Way. Parking would also be available at the Orange Line Canoga station and the Chatsworth Metrolink station.

Davis estimated that once construction began, the Canoga Avenue Busway or the Metro Orange Line extension would take approximately 30 months

to build. If funding becomes available, either option could be opened by 2014.

Open Houses and public hearings will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. New Academy Canoga Park, Multi-Purpose Room, 21425 Cohasset Street, Canoga Park, CA
- Wednesday, March 26, 2008, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Chatsworth High School, Chancellor Hall, 10027 Lurline Avenue, Chatsworth, CA

Comments gathered at the upcoming public hearings will be incorporated into the Metro's Final EIR and submitted for Board certification later this year.

The deadline for public comment is Wednesday, April 16, 2008. Comments can be made at the public hearing or submitted to: Walt Davis, Project Manager, Metro, One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-9, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or [daviswa@metro.net](mailto:daviswa@metro.net).