



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

News

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Metro Receives Unsolicited Proposal to Accelerate Conversion of Metro Orange Line to Light Rail

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has received an unsolicited proposal that could potentially accelerate the conversion of the Metro Orange Line in the San Fernando Valley from a busway to a light rail line.

The unsolicited proposal comes as a public-private partnership offered by Fluor Enterprises, Inc., one of the world's largest publicly traded engineering, procurement, construction, maintenance and project management firms. It is the first proposal on this Measure M-funded transportation project, and the tenth one to propose an alternate delivery method and accelerated schedule for a major Metro capital project.

Metro's Office of Extraordinary Innovation is now assembling a review team to evaluate the proposal based on its financial and technical merits. The review team will then decide whether to advance the proposal to the next phase of review. The agency could also decline further review or proceed directly to a competitive solicitation. All proposal concepts are confidential.

"This is exactly what we hoped would happen in our agency's quest to partner with the private sector to implement L.A. County's ambitious transportation agenda," said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. "The potential to expedite the Orange Line project is a dream that both Metro and the San Fernando Valley share. We will do our level best to determine just how we can partner with this international firm to bring rail to the Valley much faster than our current timeline allows."

Under Measure M, the new transportation sales tax measure approved by voters last November, the conversion of the Orange line to light rail is scheduled to break ground in 2051, with a completion date of 2057. A total of \$1.429 billion in local, state and federal funding is currently identified for the project. A public-private partnership orchestrated by Metro's Office of Extraordinary Innovation could establish a market-driven approach for delivering the project more quickly.

Other projects being considered for public-private partnerships include the Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor, West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor, and managed lanes program, among others.

The Metro Orange Line is an 18-mile Bus Rapid Transit Line that connects North Hollywood to Chatsworth, with a spur connecting to Warner Center in Woodland Hills. Originally opened in 2005, the BRT line has consistently registered high boardings. The Orange Line directly connects with the Metro Red Line subway that transports Valley transit riders to and from Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles.

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About Metro

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. Created in 1993, Metro is a multimodal transportation agency that transports about 1.3 million passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 clean air buses and six rail lines. The agency also oversees bus, rail, highway and other mobility-related building projects and leads transportation planning and programming for Los Angeles County.

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