



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Metro

News

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L.A. Metro Board Approves Contracts for Private Sector Teams to Perform Pre-Development Work on Heavy Rail and Monorail Concepts for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors today approved contracts with two different private sector teams to conduct Pre-Development work to advance the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project.

This mega-project is planned to connect the San Fernando Valley with the Westside and eventually LAX via a high-speed, high-capacity rail line to give L.A. area motorists an effective alternative to driving the I-405 freeway through the Sepulveda Pass, a natural traffic choke point that leads to one of the nation's most congested freeway sections.

Sepulveda Transit Corridor Partners – Bechtel was awarded a \$69.8 million contract for its proposed heavy rail transit solution concept. More than 60 percent of the partner team's proposed heavy rail concept would travel underground, with the remainder of the concept traveling at-grade or above-ground. A Valley to Westside trip would take just under 20 minutes according to the team's proposal. Yearly operating costs are estimated at \$118 million per year. The team's estimated costs for this proposed solution is \$10.8 billion.

LA SkyRail Express was awarded a second \$63.5 billion contract for its proposed monorail concept that would include a 100 percent aerial alignment between the Valley and Westside. Proposed travel times via monorail are estimated at 24 minutes. Yearly operating costs are estimated at \$63 million per year. The LA SkyRail Express team's baseline proposal cost for monorail in the center of the I-405 median is \$6.1 billion.

"Today marks a pivotal day in our efforts to bring an innovative partnership to bear in helping build this Herculean transit project," said L.A. Mayor and Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti. "Metro is now poised to begin studying how to build this line, and it bodes well that

private industry is so committed this early in the process to helping us deliver this critically important project to the public.”

Both partner team proposals present a range of possible benefits and trade-offs. Now that PDA contracts have been approved, Metro plans to begin the environmental review process this fall, where concept designs for these and other alternatives will be advanced and/or refined through extensive, ongoing public feedback and technical investigation and analysis.

At its sole discretion, Metro retains the ability to move forward with one of the private sector teams, if any, if its transit concept is ultimately chosen as the project’s Locally Preferred Alternative, or LPA. Metro also retains the right to pursue a different project development and delivery path if necessary.

“By announcing our intent to award these contracts, we have reached a significant milestone in our efforts to envision, design, and develop the United States’ first Pre-Development Agreement specifically for a public transit initiative,” said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. “As we work diligently to create a world-class transportation system here in the Los Angeles region, we will also be creating a new market for infrastructure innovation that can potentially help us build the most challenging project Metro has ever built.”

One of the private sector teams may have an opportunity, after the LPA is selected and once project development is complete, to submit a proposal to build the line, potentially accelerating construction and improving project performance.

Pre-Development Agreements enable early contractor involvement in Metro’s transit project. Specifically, it allows for innovations in design, engineering, construction approach, financing and operations. It can potentially bring the expertise and creativity of the private sector to the table early, when critical design and engineering decisions can have the greatest impact on the project’s ultimate success.

The Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project is funded in part by Measure M, the transportation sales tax approved by Los Angeles County voters in 2016. The total project will receive \$9.5 billion in funding from Measure M and other local, state and federal sources. Moving forward with the PDAs best position Metro to accelerate the project.

For additional project information, visit <https://www.metro.net/projects/sepulvedacorridor/>.

About Metro

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is currently providing lifeline service for essential trips and frontline workers. Metro continues building the most

ambitious transportation infrastructure program in the United States and is working to greatly improve mobility through its [Vision 2028 Plan](#).

Metro has proudly pledged to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Health and Safety Commitment Program to help ensure the safe return of transit riders as the U.S. recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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