



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
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Authority

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News

**FOR IMMEDIATE
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Measure R, M and State-Funded Transit Project

L.A. Metro Board Approves Route for Initial Segment for West Santa Ana Branch Project and Union Station as Northern Terminus

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors approved Los Angeles Union Station as the northern terminus of the West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project. The 14.8-mile Slauson/A Line to Pioneer route was also approved as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the project's initial segment between Artesia and Downtown Los Angeles.

Spanning 19.3 miles, the new light rail project will include 12 stations connecting the Gateway Cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Bellflower, Paramount, Downey, South Gate, Cudahy, Bell, Huntington Park, Vernon, the unincorporated Florence-Graham community and Downtown Los Angeles, with 1.4 million residents living near the route. The project will provide relief to the limited mobility and transit options currently available to these communities. Together, the Gateway Cities have populations and employment densities that are five times higher than the L.A. County average. In addition, the new light rail line will provide transfers to the Metro C Line (Green), Metro A Line (Blue) and the L.A. County regional transit network.

Metro staff will proceed with completing a Final EIS/R by spring 2023 for the initial segment, allowing for a groundbreaking in 2023 and the delivery of this 14.8-mile segment between 2033-35. At the same time, Metro staff will identify a cost-effective route in lieu of the aerial and underground route previously evaluated for the 4.5-mile Slauson/A Line (Blue) to Union Station segment.

"This new light rail line serving Southeast Los Angeles (SELA), a region I had the honor of representing for seven years, marks a milestone in our initiative to make Metro B.E.T.T.E.R. and Bring Equitable Transportation To Every Resident," said L.A. County Supervisor and Metro Board Chair Hilda L. Solis. "A transit-dependent community, SELA overwhelmingly supported Measure M back in 2016. To that end, I'm thrilled that that the Locally Preferred Alternative moving forward is in-line with the needs of residents who frequent our public transit system every day."

"The West Santa Ana Branch is not just a crucial project to deliver light rail to historically underserved areas of L.A. County — it's an opportunity to stitch our region together and connect people to opportunity," said Metro Board Director and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Through Measure M and collaboration across the County, we are improving congestion and air quality, and bringing high-quality public transportation to every corner

of our region."

The project is estimated to reduce end-to-end transit travel time to 40 minutes in the corridor. The project is funded by Measure R and M voter-approved transportation sales taxes as well \$300 million in state funding. With today's Board actions, Metro can also aggressively pursue more federal funding for the project.

"My constituents, from Southeast L.A. to the Gateway Cities, have been waiting for this project for a long time, and this week's Board vote is a significant step to getting construction underway on the first segment," said L.A. County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Janice Hahn. "I also think it is important that we committed to building the entire project, from Artesia to Union Station, and a single-seat ride that will give residents of Southeast L.A. County access to tens of thousands of jobs."

"Today's decisive action to adopt a Locally Preferred Alternative for the West Santa Ana Branch Project represents a transformative investment for Southeast Los Angeles communities," said L.A. County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Holly J. Mitchell. "Since joining the Board in 2020, I have fought to ensure equity is at the center of decision-making and this project represents a renewed commitment to inclusive, thoughtful mobility and economic benefits in Southeast Los Angeles. I am grateful to CEO Stephanie Wiggins for her leadership on this project and am encouraged to know that a completed project will connect all of Southeast L.A. to everything Los Angeles has to offer."

"Today, we are bringing high-quality public transit to the communities of Southeast LA," said Whittier Councilmember and Metro Board Member Fernando Dutra. "The West Santa Ana Branch project can serve as a national infrastructure model for the entire United States – one that prioritizes funding in equity-focused communities."

The Board also approved Metro's recommendation to build a maintenance and storage facility for its light rail vehicles in Bellflower. The approved site has the fewest community and economic impacts of the options that Metro studied.

"The action taken by our Board really represents a renewed commitment on the importance this project brings to address equity, regional mobility, environmental and economic benefits for all the Gateway Cities," said Metro CEO Stephanie N. Wiggins. "The project will greatly improve access to opportunities and improve transit service to low-income riders and communities of color who have suffered for too long with higher than average rates of morbidity and mortality due to their exposure to air pollution and a lack of transit alternatives."

For more project information, please visit <https://www.metro.net/projects/west-santa-ana/>.

Editor's Note: Metro Operators are crucial to keeping LA moving. Metro is currently hiring more than 500 bus operators and is offering a \$3,000 bonus for coming aboard. This is a great career opportunity. Metro offers competitive hourly rates starting at \$17.75 for a 30-hour job as bus operators with benefits that include health insurance, tuition reimbursements, paid training, retirement plan options and flexible working hours. Please encourage friends, family and community members to become a part of the Metro team that provides excellence in service and support and keeps our region moving. Apply at metro.net/driveLA.

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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