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November 23, 2026
Second Letter of Two

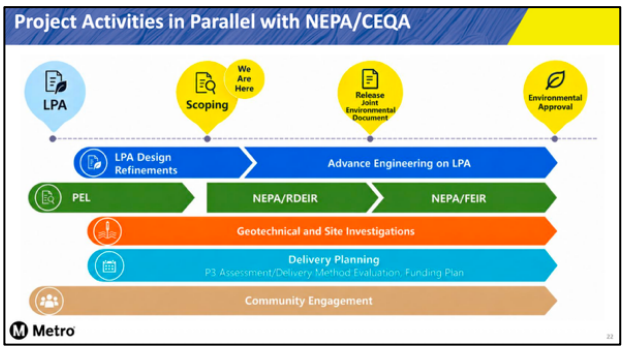
Metro Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
sepulvedatransit@metro.net

Subject: SOHA Comments and Recommendations on STCP November Scoping Meetings

Dear Metro and the Federal Transit Administration,

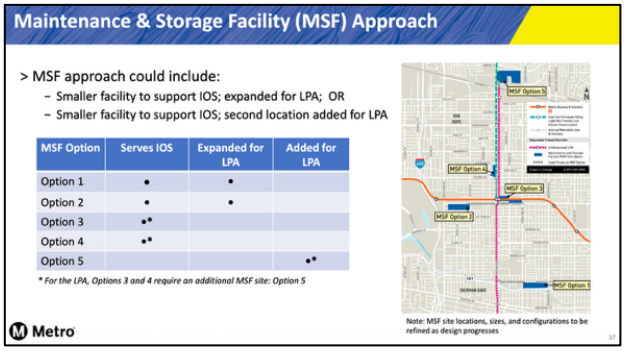
The Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association has been studying the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project (STCP) since 2016 and submitting comments since 2018. We participated in the November 10 and 16 STCP Scoping Meetings. We found much of the information presented to be trivial – especially cartoon-like schedules that provided no actual future dates. We also found many of Metro's presentation charts lacking in detail and very confusing. Our last recommendation is actually a plea that Metro talk openly and honestly with impacted communities. A separate SOHA letter provides our comments and recommendations on the Maintenance and Storage Facility locations.

Metro Must Stop Showing Cartoons and Start Showing Real Schedules with Dates at Public Meetings – Metro presented two charts at the November Scoping Meetings that looked like schedules but were actually trivial pictorial cartoons because they had no dates. The most egregious is Chart 22 at the right which appears to be a schedule of CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) events – but it has no dates – it is not a schedule. It does cartoonishly convey that Metro is conducting design and engineering activities for the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and preparing the Recirculated LPA DEIR – but provides nothing about the Initial Operating Segment (IOS) which is all that Metro seems to talk about right now. The public wants and needs to know when activities will be completed – and Chart 22 only shows a "We Are Here" notation. We already knew that! The chart does include a continuous line called "Community Engagement" which resembles nothing like the minimal "unengaging" public communications activities that Metro is conducting for the STCP. Metro has not provided the public with any further information about the Modified Alternative 5 LPA since January 2026. Metro has not explained their rationale for first building only the IOS and not the full LPA project. Metro has not provided the expected completion dates for the LPA RDEIR. Metro is conducting geological borings in Sherman Oaks and other communities using companies that will not even tell frustrated residents who they are working for and why the borings are being done. We request – no, we demand – that Metro stop treating the public like mushrooms – keeping us in the dark and covering us with manure – and



begin a real program of community engagement with more-frequent substantive information – and with interactive comment periods. Please – no more telling the public to go to the back of the meeting room and type their comments into laptops – as they did at the November STCP Scoping meetings. Let the public speak – and respond to them.

Metro Must Prepare More Understandable and Less Confusing Presentation Charts With Better Detail – SOHA and many other attendees were very confused by the charts Metro presented at the Public Scoping meetings. We understand that Metro wants to keep the presentation duration reasonable, but this should not translate into charts that cause confusion and challenge the audience's understanding. Chart 37 at the right is one of the best examples of a confusing Scoping Meeting chart. It combines a map with a challenging table of acronyms and little explanatory text – all trying to explain the logistics behind LPA-sized, IOS-sized, permanent, and temporary MSF locations. It didn't work. A series of five charts, one for each MSF location option and including serious explanatory text, would have worked much better. Also please remember that many people don't attend the public meetings and only read the presentation charts – so the charts must be standalone and fully understandable without being presented. We ask Metro to please ensure that future presentations are more detailed and understandable for the public.



Stop Wasting the Public's Time and Start Talking Openly and Honestly with Impacted Communities – We cannot emphasize this enough! SOHA and other organizations in Sherman Oaks and elsewhere have been participating in this project for almost ten years – or more honestly, trying to participate. Metro has thwarted us at every opportunity. There are too few public presentations and minimal useful information at the presentations. We have tried to convince people to attend Metro meetings and keep getting the same responses: "… We went to the last meeting and it was useless … Metro says the same things every time … Why bother, I don't learn anything … Waste of time … and worse …" In their public relations materials, Metro brags about the number of people who have attended STCP public meetings. Sadly, attendance is not as all-encompassing as Metro tends to advertise for such a huge project. But the one thing that Metro never brags about – or even mentions – is the quality of the information they present – because there is no quality. You can see this for yourself by looking at STCP DEIR Chapter 5 on "Public Participation". There are tons of data on how many people attended how many meetings and where the meetings were. But there is no data on the information that Metro presented to these people. There are not even copies of the charts that Metro has presented at the meetings. And many older presentation charts are no longer available on Metro's website. Very odd and not public friendly! That's why SOHA has copies of every prior STCP presentation.

We hope that Metro and the FTA will consider our comments and recommendations – and act fairly and accordingly. A great many of the public feel that Metro ignores our comments and treats us like we don't have the ability to make intelligent recommendations. We do have that ability – and must emphasize that communities, community organizations, and local businesses all want to work with Metro on this project – but we've tried and it never happens. We know our communities – much better than Metro or any of its consultants do. Talk with us first – we will help – if Metro lets us. Who knows, something good might result.

Respectfully,

Bob Anderson
SOHA Vice President and Transportation Committee Chair
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cc: Stephanie Wiggins (Metro CEO), Sharon Gookin (Metro Deputy CEO), Nicole Englund (Metro Chief of Staff), Elba Higueros (Metro Deputy Chief of Staff), Peter Carter (Metro STCP Project Manager), Anthony Crump (Metro Community Relations), LA Mayor Karen Bass (Metro Board Chair), Supervisor Kathryn Barger (Metro Board First Vice Chair and SFVCOG), Tim Sandoval (Metro Board Second Vice Chair), Jacquelyn Dupont Walker (Metro Board), Supervisor Janice Hahn (Metro Board), Supervisor Lindsey Horvath (Metro Board), Supervisor Holly Mitchell (Metro Board), Supervisor Hilda Solis (Metro Board), Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky (Metro Board and CD5), Inglewood Mayor James Butts (Metro Board), Santa Clarita Mayor Pro Tem Patsy Ayala (Metro Board), Councilmember Imelda Padilla (Metro Board, CD6, and SFVCOG), Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson (Metro Board), Congressmember Brad Sherman (30th District), Assemblymember Nick Schultz (44th CA District), Councilmember Nithya Raman (CD4 and SFVCOG), Councilmember Bob Blumenfield (CD3 and SFVCOG), Councilmember Adrin Nazarian (CD2 and SFVCOG), Burbank Mayor Tamala Takahashi (SFVCOG), John Alford (Congressmember Sherman Deputy), Paige Hajillo (Supervisor Horvath Field Representative), Justin Orenstein (Supervisor Horvath Transportation Director), Emily Ellison (Supervisor Horvath Metro Coordinator), Dave Perry (Supervisor Barger Transportation Director), Anthony Thornton (Assemblymember Schultz Field Deputy), Andrea Conant (CD4 Chief of Staff), Ackley Padilla (CD6 Chief of Staff), Jarrett Thompson (CD5 Transportation Deputy), Lisa Hansen (CD3 Chief of Staff), Mehmet Berker (CD4 Transportation Deputy), Jeff Jacobberger (CD3 Transportation Deputy), John Bwarie (SFV Council of Governments), Howard Katchen (President, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council), Jeffrey Hartsough (Sherman Oaks NC), Jeff Kalban (Sherman Oaks NC), Ann O'Connor (Part of Sherman Oaks), Kathy Schreiner (President, Van Nuys Neighborhood Council), Rob Glushon (Encino Property Owners Association), Barry Johnson (Studio City Residents Association), Leslie Elkan (Village at Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District), Vickie Bourdas Martinez (Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber of Commerce), Jamie Meyer (President, Bel Air Association), Fred Rosen (Keep Bel-Air Beautiful), Noah Helpern (KBAB counsel), Travis Longcore (President Bel-Air Beverly-Crest NC), Tammy Scher (Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce), Marian Dodge (Hillside Federation), Patrick Bakes (Fashion Square Mall), Rob Thomas (Notre Dame High School), Colleen Shalby (LA Times), Noah Goldberg (LA Times), Dave Zahniser (LA Times), Jill Cowan (NY Times), Jill Stewart (LA Daily News), Steve Scauzillo (LA Daily News), Jim Hampton (CityWatch), Jack Humphreville (CityWatch), Marci Marks (Encino-Sherman Oaks-Studio City News), Matt Shaw (Westside Current), Jamie Paige (California Post), Tracy Gitnick (California Post), SOHA Board of Directors