

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT & VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE SOUTH BAY CONNECT PROJECT

Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA), the lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), announces the availability of a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and virtual public meetings for the proposed South Bay Connect Project (Project). The draft EIR describes the proposed Project and evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with both the Project and the "no project" alternative.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: MAY 29 - JULY 15, 2024

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The proposed Project would relocate Capitol Corridor passenger rail service to the existing Union Pacific Railroad Coast Subdivision between Oakland and Newark for improved operational efficiency and reliability. The proposed Project also includes constructing a new passenger rail station on the Coast Subdivision at the existing Ardenwood Park-and-Ride to serve southern Alameda County passengers and facilitate connections to existing transbay transit connections between the East Bay and the San Francisco Peninsula.

The proposed Project is a critical component to enhancing both passenger and freight rail operations between Oakland and San Jose and has been identified in multiple rail transportation planning documents, including the 2018 California State Rail Plan, Alameda County Transportation Commission Rail Strategy, as well as CCJPA's 2014 Vision Plan Update and 2016 Vision Implementation Plan. The proposed Project aims to improve operations for both uses of rail in supporting the economic vitality of the Northern California Megaregion.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The draft EIR assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project on the physical, social, and natural environments. A wide variety of resource areas have been studied during the environmental review to identify potential impacts, including aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards & hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise and vibration, population/housing, public services, recreation, sea level rise, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities/service systems, community impacts, and wildfire. Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate any potential adverse impacts have been identified and evaluated in the draft EIR.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

A 45-day public scoping process is being initiated with this notice. Responsible and Trustee Agencies, interested groups, and members of the public are invited to attend an upcoming virtual public meeting to learn more about the proposed Project and provide formal comments on the draft EIR. Spanish and Mandarin Chinese interpreters will be available, as well as a court reporter to take your comments. Individuals will be allotted three minutes to provide verbal comments.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024 | 6-8 P.M.
Zoom: bit.ly/SBC_EIR_Meeting
Telephone: (669) 900-6833
Meeting ID: 948 0626 0719
Passcode: 609064

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 | 6-8 P.M.
Zoom: bit.ly/SBC_EIR_Meeting2
Telephone: (669) 900-6833
Meeting ID: 966 2867 9863
Passcode: 280963

For accessibility accommodations, please call (510) 244-3667 or email info@southbayconnect.com. Deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired users may contact the California Relay Service TTY/TDD and/or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2929 or 711.

CCJPA BOARD MEETING

The public may also provide verbal comments at the CCJPA Board Meeting on June 26, 2024, beginning at 10 a.m. at the BART Headquarters (2150 Webster St, Oakland, CA). An option for public participation will be available via teleconference. Visit capitolcorridor.org/ccjpa-board for meeting information.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Written comments must be received by **5 p.m. PDT July 15, 2024**, via the following options:

Website: southbayconnect.com
Email: info@southbayconnect.com
Phone: (510) 244-3667

Mail: Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority
Attn: South Bay Connect DEIR
2150 Webster St, 3rd Floor | Oakland, CA 94612