VTA’s BART Silicon Valley Program

VTA’s BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension Project

Environmental Scoping Meetings
February 2015
Meeting Schedule

• Open house
  
  5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

• Presentation and comment period
  
  6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Agenda

• Welcome/Meeting purpose
• Project overview
• Environmental process
• Public comments on scope of environmental document
• Next steps
• Adjournment
What is Scoping?

• The process of determining the focus and content (scope) of an environmental document through public outreach.

• Provides notice to the public and other agencies that a draft environmental document is being prepared, and initiates their involvement in the process.
Scoping ~ Environmental Kick-off

• Scoping period January 30, 2015 - March 2, 2015

• Scoping Meetings:
  
  **February 12, 2015, 5:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.**
  City of Santa Clara Council Chambers

  **February 17, 2015, 5:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.**
  VTA Customer Service Center, Downtown San Jose

  **February 19, 2015, 5:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.**
  School of Arts and Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza
Scoping ~ Environmental Kick-off

Submittal of comments to VTA:

In person: Verbal comments during formal comment period of Scoping Meeting or submittal of comment card

Mail: Tom Fitzwater
Environmental Programs and Resources Management, Bldg B-2
Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134

Email: BARTPhase2EIS-EIR@vta.org

Comments must be received by 5:00 P.M. on March 2, 2015
Public Comments at Scoping Meetings

- Verbal comments at the scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter
- Please submit a speaker card if you wish to speak
- Speakers will be called up in order
- Comments will be recorded
Project Overview
Approved California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Project

Berryessa Extension Project

- 10-mile extension under construction
- Two stations: (Milpitas and Berryessa)
- Forecast opening: Fall 2017
- Anticipated opening day ridership: 23,000

Phase II Extension

- 6-mile extension
- Four stations (Alum Rock, Downtown San Jose, Diridon, Santa Clara), and Newhall Yard maintenance facility
- Anticipated year 2035 ridership: 55,000
Project Purpose

- Improve public transit service
- Enhance regional connectivity
- Increase transit ridership
- Support transportation solutions that will maintain the economic vitality and continuing development of Silicon Valley
- Improve mobility options
- Enhance level and quality of transit service to areas of existing and planned affordable housing
- Improve regional air quality
- Support local and regional land use plans
Alternatives to be Evaluated

- No-Build Alternative (Berryessa Extension Project)
- Build Alternative (Six-mile, 4-Station extension with maintenance facility)
Build Alternative:
Phase II Extension Project
Build Alternative: Phase II Extension Project

- 6-mile extension
- 4 Stations
  - Alum Rock (underground)
  - Downtown San Jose (underground)
  - Diridon (underground)
  - Santa Clara (at-grade)
- Maintenance Facility in San Jose/Santa Clara
- Anticipated ridership of 55,000
Build Alternative: Phase II Extension Project
Alum Rock Station

Alum Rock Station Conceptual Site Plan
Phase II Extension Project
Downtown San Jose Station – East Option
Diridon Station

Legend
- Underground Station
- Systems Facilities
- Access Circulation
- Key Pedestrian Linkage
- Vehicle Access
- Bus Access
- Station Entrance Options
- New/Modified Signalized Intersection

Diridon Station Conceptual Site Plan
Phase II Extension Project

February 2016
Santa Clara Station Conceptual Site Plan
Phase II Extension Project
Phase II Project Delivery

NEPA/CEQA Environmental Process
- Release Notice of Preparation
- Scoping Meetings
- End of Scoping Period
- Circulate Draft SEIS/SEIR3 Document
- Draft SEIS/SEIR3 Public Meetings
- VTA Board Defines Final SEIS/SEIR3 Project
- Circulate Final SEIS/SEIR3 Document
- Final SEIS/SEIR3
- VTA Board Approves Project
- FTA Record of Decision

New Starts Funding Process
- Entry into NSPD
- Submit Application to enter New Starts Project Development (NSPD)
- Entry into New Starts Engineering
- FTA Letter of No Prejudice
- Receive Full Funding Grant Agreement from FTA

Community Engagement*
- Scoping Period
- Public Meetings and Stakeholder Outreach

*Community engagement will include scoping meetings, stakeholder outreach, and targeted community forums that fulfill Title VI requirements. A community outreach plan and strategy will be developed to have targeted community forums at all the station areas.
Future Community Engagement Activities

• Ongoing community outreach and engagement during environmental process

• Focused Outreach Sessions – Spring 2015, some topics may include:
  – Economic and Community Benefits
  – Funding
  – Station Planning
  – Transportation connectivity
  – Station walking tours
  – Construction Methods
Environmental Process
Project History – Environmental Studies

- 2004 – State clearance (CEQA) on Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR): 16-mile project

- 2007 – CEQA clearance on Final Supplemental EIR (SEIR): 16-mile project

- 2010 – Federal clearance National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): 10-mile project

- 2011 – CEQA clearance on 2nd SEIR: 10-mile project

- 2015 – Joint CEQA and NEPA document (SEIS/SEIR3): 6-mile project
Supplemental EIS/3rd Supplemental EIR

- Minor changes to project
- Integration with updated land-use and development plans
- Changed laws and regulations
- FTA real estate process
Purpose of Scoping Meeting

• Describe proposed project and environmental review process

• Early consultation process to solicit input on document scope to address potential major environmental issues

• Scoping does not result in the ultimate decision or selection of an alternative
Objectives of the Environmental Document

• Document environmental impacts from project features

• Gather public input

• Coordinate with federal, state, and other agencies

• Provide decision makers with environmental information
Environmental Review Steps

1. Initiate Environmental Process
2. Early Consultation/Scoping
3. Prepare Draft Environmental Document
4. Comment Period & Public Hearings
5. VTA Board Defines Project
6. Prepare Final Environmental Document/Respond to Comments
7. VTA Board of Directors Approves the Project
8. Federal Record of Decision for the Project
Environmental Topics

• Air Quality
• Biological Resources and Wetlands
• Community Services
• Construction
• Cultural Resources
• Electromagnetic Fields
• Energy
• Geology, Soils, & Seismicity
• Greenhouse Gas Emissions
• Hazardous Materials

• Land Use
• Noise and Vibration
• Security & System Safety
• Socioeconomics
• Transportation
• Utilities
• Visual Quality/Aesthetics
• Water Resources, Water Quality, and Floodplains
Environmental Process

State (CEQA) and Federal (NEPA) Environmental Process Timeline
Public Comment
Speaker Guidelines

• Please submit a speaker card if you wish to speak
• Moderator will call speakers
• Speakers will have 2 minutes to present
  ➢ Yellow Card – 30 seconds remaining
  ➢ Red Card – speaking time is over
• Tonight, we will not be responding to your comments
• We will document your comments in the Scoping Report
• Time slots will not be traded or yielded
• Please, no interruptions of speaker, side conversations, applause, etc.
• Please turn off cell phones
  
  Thank you for your cooperation!
Opportunity for Public Comment

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