

July 16, 2018

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

PROJECT NAME: Inglewood Transit Connector

PROJECT LOCATION/ADDRESS: The proposed Inglewood Transit Connector (ITC) Project would include transit improvements that would be constructed in an area of the City of Inglewood within the public right-of-way from Market Street at the Crenshaw/LAX Metro Line, south to the intersection of Market Street and Manchester Boulevard, east to the intersection of Manchester Boulevard and Prairie Avenue, then south to the intersection of Prairie Avenue and Century Boulevard. The proposed Project would also include a Maintenance Storage Facility and Intermodal Transportation Facilities; these facilities would be constructed adjacent to the right-of-way in the potential locations described below.

DUE DATE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS: August 17, 2018

Notice is hereby given that the City of Inglewood (“City” or “Inglewood”) will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Inglewood Transit Connector Project (“proposed Project”). The EIR to be prepared by the City will evaluate the potential significant environmental effects of the proposed Project. The City is requesting comments related to the scope and content of the EIR. A description of the proposed Project, its location, and a summary of the probable environmental effects that the City anticipates proposes to address in the EIR are provided below.

The EIR for the proposed Project is being prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code §§21000 et. seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (“Guidelines”) (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, §§15000 et. seq.). Pursuant to Guidelines §15082(a), upon deciding to prepare an EIR, the City as Lead Agency is required to send a Notice of Preparation (NOP) stating that an EIR will be prepared. In accordance with the Guidelines, the City is providing this NOP to the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (“OPR”), any trustee or responsible agencies identified for the Project, to adjacent cities and counties, and to those requesting such notice. The purpose of the NOP is to provide information describing the Project and its potential environmental effects to those who may wish to comment regarding the scope and content of the information to be included in the EIR. Guidelines §15082(b) states: “Each responsible and trustee agency and the Office of Planning and Research shall provide the lead agency with specific detail about the scope and content of the environmental information related to the responsible or trustee agency’s area of statutory responsibility that must be included in the draft EIR. (1) The response at a minimum shall identify: (A) The significant environmental issues and reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures that the responsible or trustee agency, or the Office of Planning and Research, will need to have explored in the draft EIR; and (B) Whether the agency will be a responsible agency or trustee agency for the Project.” The City encourages OPR, responsible and trustee agencies, adjacent cities and counties, and interested members of the public to provide this information to the City so that the City can ensure that the Draft EIR meets the needs of those agencies.

The Draft EIR will analyze the potential adverse impacts that are anticipated to result from the proposed Project; identify potential mitigation measures where reasonable and feasible; and analyze reasonable and feasible alternatives to the proposed Project that could reduce or avoid identified significant impacts while still feasibly achieving most of the basic Project objectives.

A copy of the Initial Study prepared for the proposed Project is available for review at the City of Inglewood

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website at: www.cityofinglewood.org and at the locations listed below:

- Inglewood City Hall, One W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301
- Inglewood Public Library, 101 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Location and Setting

The proposed Project is located in the northern portion of the City of Inglewood east of the San Diego Freeway (I-405) and north of the Glen Anderson Freeway (I-105) in Los Angeles County, California (see **Figure 1, Regional Location Map**).

Century Boulevard in the south; the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District (LASED) to the east; and La Brea Avenue to the west (see **Figure 2: Project Location Map**). The Project extends from the intersection with the Metro Crenshaw Line north of downtown Inglewood, south through Market Street, then east on Manchester Boulevard, turning south on Prairie Avenue until its intersection with Century Boulevard. The APM system will be located within the public rights-of-way for the streets and sidewalk areas along Market Street, Manchester Boulevard, and Prairie Avenue (see **Figure 3: Typical Automated People Mover**). The entire Project Site is situated within the City of Inglewood, an incorporated city within Los Angeles County.

Background

The primary goal is to provide convenient, reliable, direct transit accessibility and connectivity to the City's major activity centers from the Metro Rail System. The City seeks to accommodate individuals traveling to and from the LASED, the Forum, and the proposed Inglewood Basketball and Entertainment Center (IBEC), during major events via public transportation, both for ease of access and to minimize traffic in the area. The proposed alignment is planned to have a ridership capacity of 13,500 passengers per hour. Additionally, the transit system presents an opportunity for integration with local economic activity, transit-oriented development, and other initiatives in the area.

Description

The proposed Project would include an automated people mover (APM) system to transport riders within the downtown Market Street area and the LASED, the Forum, and the proposed Inglewood Basketball and Entertainment Center (IBEC).

The proposed Project will provide an APM connection from downtown Inglewood and the Crenshaw/LAX Metro line to the LASED area, proposing up to 5 stations at 1) Market Street/Downtown Inglewood Crenshaw/LAX Metro Station, 2) Manchester Boulevard at or near Market Street, 3) The Forum, 4) LASED, and 5) IBEC. The proposed Project would consist of an elevated, automated people mover (APM) system that will have dual guideways to allow for continuous trains to travel in each direction.

In addition to the APM systems, the proposed Project will include support facilities to provide for maintenance and addition access areas that could be either co-located or individually located at several

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potential sites adjacent to the APM alignment. These support facilities would include a maintenance storage facility (MSF), one or more Intermodal Transit Facilities (ITF) and other components such as a power traction system. The MSF would consist of a single four- to six-acre facility to service the APM cars and other system components. The ITFs that would multimodal access to the APM as well as provide for parking areas and drop-off and pick-up locations.

Potential sites for support facilities are shown on Figure 2 and include locations east of North Market Street, south of Manchester Boulevard between Spruce Avenue and Hillcrest Boulevard, across Prairie Avenue from the Forum, and at either the northwest or southwest corner of Prairie Avenue and Century Boulevard.

The design and construction of the APM system elevated guideway structures, stations and support facilities will avoid existing utility and other infrastructure to the degree possible. In addition to surface improvements, some utility infrastructure that cannot be avoided may need to be relocated to accommodate the guideway columns and foundations.

The proposed Project would be implemented through the development of an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) in accordance with Senate Bill 628 (Beal), which provides for the creation of such districts to accommodate the construction or rehabilitation of public infrastructure facilities. The City of Inglewood will be the Public Financing Authority (PFA) for the EIFD; as such it, will determine boundaries of the EIFD. The EIFD, governed by the PFA, implements an Infrastructure Financing Plan adopted the City that describes the type of public facilities and development that will be financed by the EIFD.

REQUESTED PERMITS/APPROVALS: The City of Inglewood has principal responsibility for approving and carrying out the proposed Project. Approvals required for implementation of the proposed Project may include, but are not limited to, the following:

State and Regional Agency Approval and Actions:

- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD);
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG);
- Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) administer regulations regarding water quality. Permits or approvals required from the WQCB may include but are not limited to: (1) General Construction Stormwater Permit; (2) Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan; and (3) Submittal of a Recycled Water Report for the use of recycled water as a dust control measure for construction;
- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) review and approval of a System Safety Program Plan and Security Plan for the proposed APM; and,
- Approvals for state financing plans or districts.

City of Inglewood Approvals and Actions:

- Certification of the Final EIR for the Inglewood Transit Connector Project;
- Updates/amendments to the City of Inglewood General Plan Land Use Element and Transportation Element. These changes relate to conforming the plans, as necessary, to reflect the physical Projects within the Inglewood Transit Connector Project and technical

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- amendments necessary for the construction and operation of the Inglewood Transit Connector;
- Preparation of a Project-specific Stormwater Management Plan or Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan for approval;
 - City of Inglewood Fire Department approval;
 - Grading permits, building permits, and other permits issued by the Department of Building and Safety for the Project and any associated Department of Public Works permits for infrastructure improvements;
 - Tract/parcel map and zone change approvals;
 - Approvals for federal, state, or local financing plans or districts;
 - Approving contracts for the design and construction of the Project; and,
 - Other federal, state, or local approvals, permits, or actions that may be deemed necessary for the Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use and Planning, Noise and Vibration, Population and Housing, Transportation and Circulation, and Utilities/Service Systems. Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Mineral Resources, Public Services, Recreation, and Tribal Cultural Resources have been found to be less than significant through the analysis in the Initial Study and are not proposed for further analysis in the EIR.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: A public scoping meeting in an open house format will be held to receive public comment regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. The City of Inglewood encourages all interested individuals and organizations to attend the meeting. The location (see **Figure 4: Scoping Meeting Location Map**), date, and time of the scoping meeting for this proposed Project is as follows:

Date and Time: Thursday, July 26, 2018, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Inglewood Senior Citizens Center
330 Centinela Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90302

Sign Language Interpreters, Communication Access Real-Time Transcription, Assistive Listening Devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language Interpreters, five or more business days' notice is strongly recommended.

COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND INITIAL STUDY: The City welcomes all comments regarding the scope and content of environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR. **All comments will be considered in the preparation of the EIR. Written comments must be submitted to this office by close of business August 15, 2018.** Written comments will also be accepted at the scoping meeting described above.

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Responses should be submitted on the City of Inglewood website (<http://www.cityofinglewood.org>) or sent to Ms. Mindy Wilcox, AICP, Planning Manager, at the following address:

City of Inglewood
One W. Manchester Boulevard, 4th Floor
Inglewood, CA 90301

The City welcomes your participation in the environmental review process.

MINDY WILCOX, AICP, Planning Manager

Enclosures:

- Figure 1: Regional Location Map
- Figure 2: Project Location Map
- Figure 3: Typical Automated People Mover
- Figure 4: Scoping Meeting Location Map