

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT & ONLINE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE SOUTH BAY CONNECT PROJECT

Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the South Bay Connect Project (Project), is issuing this Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). CCJPA is issuing this NOP to solicit public and agency input on the scope of the EIR and to advise the public that outreach activities and an online public scoping meeting will be conducted by CCJPA in support of the preparation of the EIR.

SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD: June 29 through August 13, 2020

PROJECT OVERVIEW

A key element in CCJPA's 2014 Vision Plan Update and 2016 Vision Implementation Plan, South Bay Connect proposes to relocate Capitol Corridor intercity passenger rail service between Oakland and Newark from the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Niles Subdivision to the UPRR Coast Subdivision. The Project, which is also included in the 2018 California State Rail Plan, would enable a shorter, more direct passenger rail route and significantly reduce rail travel time between Oakland and San Jose, facilitating more auto-competitive travel times for intercity passenger rail trips within the Capitol Corridor service area. The more direct Coast Subdivision route would provide up to 13 minutes in rail travel time savings and facilitate improved connections to transbay transit and shuttle services and destinations on the San Francisco Peninsula.

South Bay Connect would facilitate the separation of passenger and freight rail operations in southern Alameda County, thereby improving operations for both uses of rail and supporting the economic vitality of the Northern California Megaregion. Improvements to the rail infrastructure may be warranted and included in the Project to accommodate the transition of passenger service to the Coast Subdivision and freight service to the Niles and Oakland Subdivisions.

The proposed Project also includes a new passenger rail station at the Ardenwood Park-and-Ride and potentially one additional passenger rail station along the Coast Subdivision to serve southern Alameda County passengers who would no longer have access to Capitol Corridor service at existing stations in Hayward and Fremont along the Niles Subdivision. The proposed Project does not include an increase in daily Capitol Corridor trains or frequency of service to San Jose.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The EIR process will assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project on the physical, human, and natural environment. A wide variety of resource areas will be 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, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities/service systems, and wildfire. Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate any potential adverse impacts will be identified and evaluated in the EIR.

ONLINE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

A 45-day public scoping process is being initiated with this notice. Responsible and Trustee Agencies, involved federal agencies, interest groups, and members of the public are invited to participate and provide valuable input into the scope of the EIR.

For your convenience, and to allow participation in a safe environment while social distancing, an online public meeting will be available during the entire scoping comment period from June 29 through August 13. We encourage you to attend the meeting online at southbayconnect.com anytime during the 45-day period to review information and submit comments.

LIVE ENGAGEMENT

The public is invited to ask questions directly to the project team in two separate and convenient forums.

Online Meeting Chat Bot
Ask questions through chat feature
July 15 at Noon
[Southbayconnect.com](https://southbayconnect.com)

Telephone Townhall
Ask questions through telephone
July 15 at 6pm
(833) 380-0651

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Submission of comments on the environmental scope of the Project are invited from all interested parties from June 29, 2020 through 5 p.m. Pacific Time on August 13, 2020. Comments can be submitted via the following options:

Online Meeting: southbayconnect.com
Email: info@southbayconnect.com
Telephone: (510) 244-3667

Mail: Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority
Attention: South Bay Connect
300 Lakeside Drive, 14th Floor East | Oakland, CA 94612

SPECIAL MEETING ACCOMMODATIONS

The online public scoping meeting is American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible and can be viewed in desired language through use of Google Translate. For additional accessibility preferences, please call (510) 244-3667 or email info@southbayconnect.com. For the deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service TTY and/or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2929, or 711.