MST SuRF!
Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project
EIR Scoping Meeting

August 27, 2020
**Monterey-Salinas Transit**

Carl Sedoryk, General Manager/CEO  
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Michelle Overmeyer, Director of Planning and Innovation

**TAMC**

Madilyn Jacobsen, Transportation Planner

**Kimley-Horn & Associates**

Peter Meyerhofer, Project Lead/Managing Engineer  
Tad Stearn, EIR Project Manager
Presentation Outline

- Purpose of the Scoping Meeting
- Project Background and Overview
- CEQA and the Environmental Review Process
- Concurrent NEPA Review
- Key Subjects/Issues Anticipated for the EIR
- Opportunity for Public and Agency Input
- Next Steps
Purpose of the Scoping Meeting

What is “scoping”?

- To help inform public agencies and community about the environmental review process
- Encourages agency/community input about the scope, or contents of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Expands public/community outreach
Project Background

- Project uses a portion of the old Southern Pacific Railroad Monterey Branch Line (MBL)
- Passenger rail feasibility studies began in 1990s
- MBL purchased by TAMC in 2003
- Light rail options considered in 2010-2011
- 2017 multi-agency feasibility study identified BRT as most viable
- Supported by Monterey County voters with passage of Measure X in 2016
- Project leverages local and federal funding
Project Highlights

- Approximately 6 miles total length
- Marina Transit Exchange to Sand City
- Plans for electric/zero emission vehicles
- Provides congestion relief and connectivity
- New Transit Station at 5th Street
- Reduces VMT
- Retains rail for future use
Project Location
Project Limits

- Project Area
- City Limits

Map showing the project limits with markers for Marina and Seaside.
Palm/Del Monte Detail
5th Street Station Detail
California Ave Connection Detail (1)
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- Inform decision-makers and the public of:
  - Significant environmental effects
  - Possible ways to minimize significant effects
  - Reasonable alternatives to the project.

- “Significant effect on the environment” means...
  - A substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in physical environmental conditions
Environmental Review

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) applies to all “projects”
- MST is the Lead Agency
- TAMC is a Responsible Agency
- CEQA requires factual, impartial review of projects
- Early public consultation and disclosure is a cornerstone of the CEQA process
- EIR is the highest level of CEQA review
Concurrent NEPA Review

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Applies
- NEPA triggered by federal funding
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is the federal lead agency
- NEPA documentation expected to result in a Categorical Exclusion (CE) supported by technical studies
Steps in the EIR Process

- Notice of Preparation
- Public Scoping Meeting
- Prepare Draft EIR
- Circulate for Public Review (45 days)
- Prepare Final EIR
- Certify Final EIR - CEQA Findings
Notice of Preparation

- A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was issued on August 13, 2020 for 30-day review

- NOP notifies public that an EIR is underway and identifies issue areas to be evaluated

- NOP was filed with the State and County, published in multiple publications in English and Spanish, and posted on the MST website: https://mst.org/about-mst/planning-development/.

- Comments on the NOP received through: September 14, 2020 5:00 pm
CEQA Topics to be Analyzed

- Aesthetics & Visual Resources
- Air Quality & Greenhouse Gases
- Biological Resources
- Cultural, Tribal & Historic Resources
- Geology & Soils
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
CEQA Topics (cont.)

- Land Use & Planning (Coastal Zone)
- Noise & Vibration
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Mobility
- Utilities & Service Systems
MST is seeking input on the scope and content of the EIR.

Input on the scope of the EIR is welcome tonight.

Comments on the NOP will be collected by MST through September 14.

Participants and agency representatives are encouraged to also submit their comments in written format.
MST SURF! Contact for Environmental Review Process

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Next Steps / Anticipated Schedule

- Staff Review of Admin Draft EIR – November
- Public Review Draft EIR – January 2021
- Final EIR – June 2021
- Board Meetings – Summer of 2021
Thank you!
Your input is appreciated.

SURF!