

# Welcome!

*We will begin in a few moments.*

## LA River Path Draft EIR Public Hearing

January 21, 2026; January 27, 2026  
January 29, 2026 (virtual); January 31, 2026

# Public Hearing Guidelines

**We want your feedback and input.**

**Metro is committed to ensuring that all participants can fairly and clearly share ideas, comments and concerns about this project.**

**To provide a safe and equitable process, we are asking for your help.**

## **During this public hearing, please:**

- Turn off cell phones or set them to vibrate
- Respect the format of the meeting and allow everyone an opportunity to speak
- Do not block the view of other participants
- Address all comments to Metro staff and consultants – not to other attendees
- Maintain a conversational tone
- Treat fellow community members, agency representatives, Metro staff and others with respect, both during and after the hearing



# How to Provide Public Comments Today

## Verbal Comment

- Verbal comments may be provided at the court reporter stations
- Please fill in a speaker card and have a seat at the chairs
- A staff member will direct you to the next open court reporter
- Verbal public comment is limited to one (1) minutes
- If you have additional comments, you may request another speaker card if time permits or submit written comment

## Written Comment

- Comment cards can be filled in and placed in the comment card boxes when complete
- Comments may also be submitted via the online form on the project website or via the project email



# Central Los Angeles: Facebook Groups and Email Newsletter



## Metro: Central Area Projects

Private group · 80 members



[+ Invite](#) [Share](#)

Join the conversation on the Central Area Facebook Group by visiting:

[www.facebook.com/groups/metrocentral/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/metrocentral/)



## Metro Central Area Projects Updates



### Central LA Construction Projects Updates

Metro will host a virtual community meeting to share the latest updates on two major construction efforts: the Division 20 Portal Widening & Turnback Facility and the Link Union Station projects. Attendees will get a first look at updated timelines, visuals of construction progress, and details on what to expect in the coming months. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and speak directly with Metro staff.

When: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 12pm

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02-web.zoom.us/j/91456407320>

Webinar ID: 914 5640 7320

Phone: 213 338 8477



Subscribe to Metro's Central Area Project Updates by scanning the QR code or signing up at:

<https://bit.ly/4dB2my1>

# Thank you for joining us!

- **Open House (15 minutes)**
- **Draft EIR Presentation (30 minutes)**
  - Project Overview and Existing Conditions
  - Alternatives and Project Features
  - Draft EIR and CEQA Findings
  - Next Steps
  - How to provide comments
- **Receive formal comments (70 minutes)**

*Open House to resume after Oral Comment, if time permits*
- **Closing remarks (5 minutes)**

## Public Hearing Format



Court Reporter will document public oral comments after presentation



Simultaneous Spanish interpretation available

# Know Your Rights

- All immigrants, regardless of status, are entitled to basic rights and protections under the law. Understanding these rights is the first step toward safety, empowerment, and accessing essential resources.
- Key Support Services Available:
  - ✓ Free or low-cost legal services
  - ✓ Language-accessible assistance
  - ✓ Resources for navigating immigration issues
  - ✓ Protection from fraud, discrimination, and abuse
- [oia.lacounty.gov](http://oia.lacounty.gov)



The flyer is divided into three horizontal sections. The top section is blue and contains the logos for 'LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONSUMER & BUSINESS AFFAIRS' and 'LAC YOU' (LA County Office of Immigrant Affairs). The middle section is white and features the headline 'AS AN IMMIGRANT, YOU HAVE RIGHTS!' in orange, followed by the text 'Get support, legal services and protections.' The bottom section is light gray and features the headline 'COMO INMIGRANTE, ¿USTED TIENE DERECHOS!' in orange, followed by 'Obtenga apoyo, servicios legales y protecciones.' The bottom-most section is dark blue and contains contact information: '320 W. Temple St. Room G10 Los Angeles, CA 90012', '800-593-8222', and 'oia.lacounty.gov', along with a QR code.



**Next stop: a more connected bike path.**

LA RIVER PATH PROJECT

# Today's Presenters



**MARK DIERKING**

Director,  
Community Relations  
LA Metro



**MITALI GUPTA**

Metro Project Manager,  
Countywide Planning  
LA Metro



**KHRISTIAN DECASTRO**

Metro Deputy Project  
Manager  
Countywide Planning  
LA Metro



**MATTHEW FRANCK**

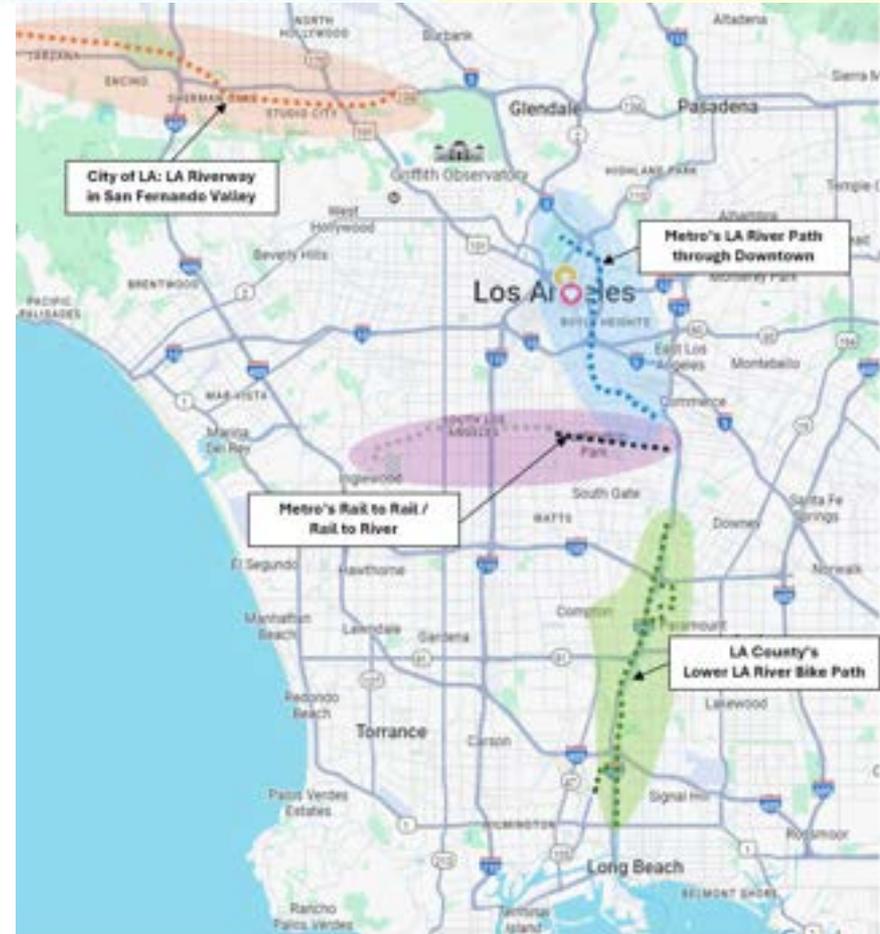
Environmental Lead,  
Jacobs Engineering



# Project Overview and Existing Conditions

# Bike Paths and LA River

- First segment of a bike path was constructed in 1977 (LA River/Rio Hondo Trail – 20+ miles)
- In 2016, Measure M envisioned closing the 8-mile gap of the regional bike network (between Riverside Drive and Atlantic Boulevard)
  - ✓ Measure M allocated \$365M (2015\$) for Design, Environmental Clearance, and Construction
- County of Los Angeles adopted 2022 LA River Master Plan which proposed to have one maintenance agency for the entire river path
- Identification of agency to construct, operate and maintain will need to be determined before project is approved. Metro will not be the operator or maintainer of the project considering the limited Metro property ownership and the lack of jurisdiction over the regional bicycle network.



# Project Objectives & Who would be using the LA River Path



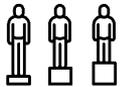
**SAFETY**



**ACCESS**



**EFFICIENT & SUSTAINABLE**



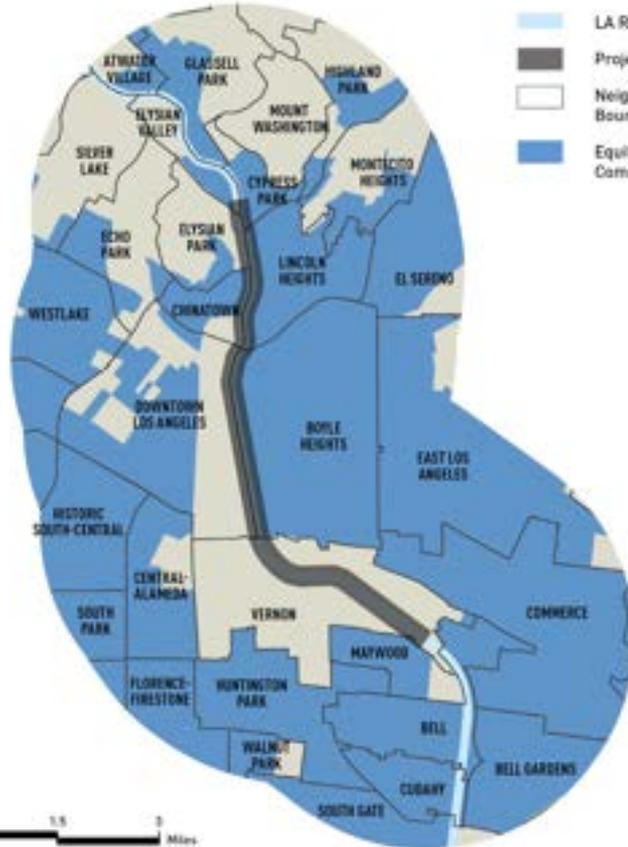
**EQUITY**



**USER EXPERIENCE**



**HEALTH**



Within the LA River Path project corridor:

**76,000**

people live within walking distance of the Los Angeles River (1/2 mile)

OF THE **1 MILLION**

people who live within biking distance of the Los Angeles River (3 miles)

**17%** of working-age people WALK, BIKE, or TAKE TRANSIT

Median household income is **\$61,000**

**23%** live in POVERTY



# Existing Conditions and Right of Way

- Utility Towers and Power Lines (LADWP)
- Active Freight (BNSF/UP) and Passenger Rail (Amtrak/Metrolink)
- Total of 30 Bridges (10 Historic; 3 Potentially Historic)



- Property Ownership
  - ✓ Metro: <1%
  - ✓ City of Los Angeles, including LADWP: **45%**
  - ✓ County of Los Angeles: **35%**
  - ✓ Private (mostly in Vernon): **19%**
- Flood Control – Hydraulic Requirements
  - ✓ US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
  - ✓ LA County Flood Control District (LAFCD)

# Project Features and Alternatives

# Project Features

## ACCESS POINTS

- Where users can enter or exit the LA River Path, connecting them to nearby neighborhoods
- May include amenities like wayfinding, seating, and landscaping



## PATH TYPES

- 3 Path Types
  - Elevated
  - Incised
  - Top of Bank

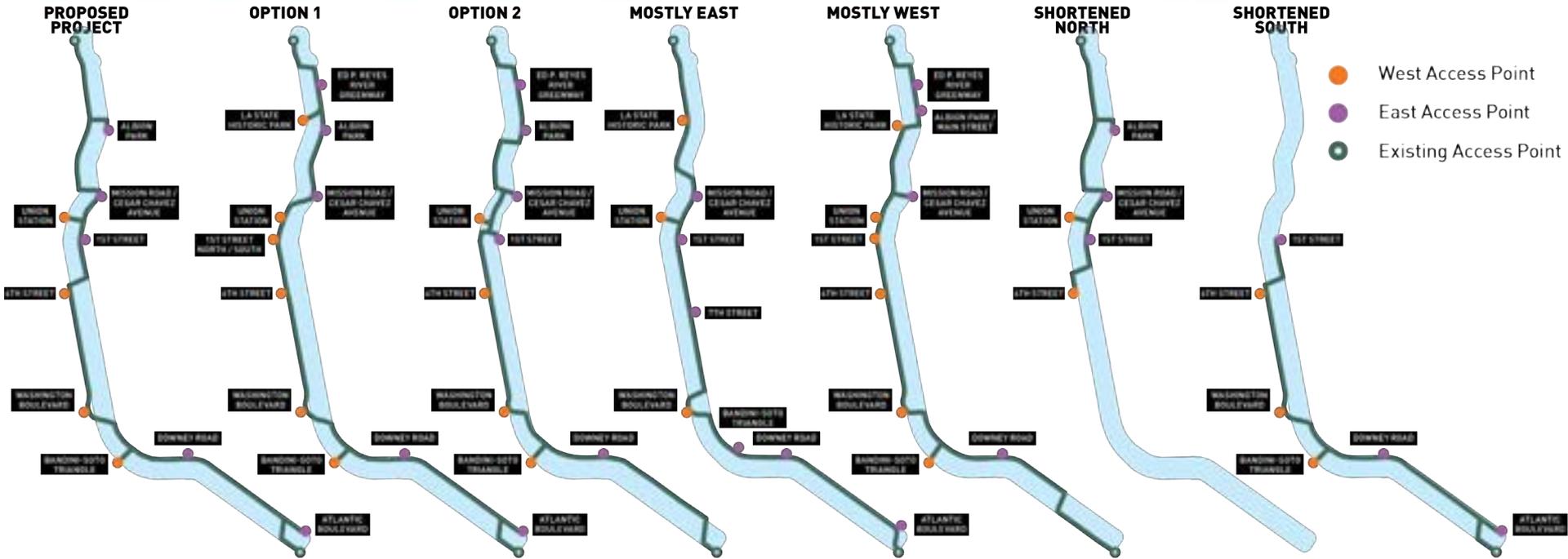


## BIKE-PED BRIDGES

- 2 Bridge Types
  - Multi-span
  - Single-span



# Alternatives Considered in the Draft EIR



For presentation purposes – NOT TO SCALE  
 For context: the Option 1 is the closest to the Measure M-assumed design

# Comparison of Alternatives Considered in the Draft EIR

PROPOSED PROJECT	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	MOSTLY EAST	MOSTLY WEST	SHORTENED NORTH*	SHORTENED SOUTH*
Closes 8-mile gap (Riverside Dr. to Atlantic Blvd.)					Closes 3.2-mile from North (Riverside Dr. to 6 <sup>th</sup> St.)	Closes 5-mile from South (1 <sup>st</sup> St. to Atlantic Blvd.)
7 New Bridges	6 New Bridges	7 New Bridges	5 New Bridges	6 New Bridges	4 New Bridges	4 New Bridges
9 New Access Points <i>5 on East Bank</i> <i>4 on West Bank</i>	11 New Access Points <i>5 on East Bank</i> <i>6 on West Bank</i>	9 New Access Points <i>5 on East Bank</i> <i>4 on West Bank</i>	9 New Access Points <i>6 on East Bank</i> <i>3 on West Bank</i>	10 New Access Points <i>4 on East Bank</i> <i>6 on West Bank</i>	5 New Access Points <i>3 on East Bank</i> <i>2 on West Bank</i>	6 New Access Points <i>3 on East Bank</i> <i>3 on West Bank</i>
Direct access to 9 communities	Direct access to 10 communities	Direct access to 9 communities	Direct access to 7 communities	Direct access to 9 communities	Direct access to 6 communities	Direct access to 5 communities
Elevated: 46% Incised: 26% Top of Bank: 28%	Elevated: 56% Incised: 35% Top of Bank: 9%	Elevated: 47% Incised: 34% Top of Bank: 19%	Elevated: 47% Incised: 28% Top of Bank: 24%	Elevated: 35% Incised: 48% Top of Bank: 17%	Elevated: 16% Incised: 28% Top of Bank: 2%	Elevated: 29% Incised: 20% Top of Bank: 24%
Benefit to Community: <b>HIGH</b>			Benefit to Community: <b>MEDIUM</b>		Benefit to Community: <b>LOW</b>	

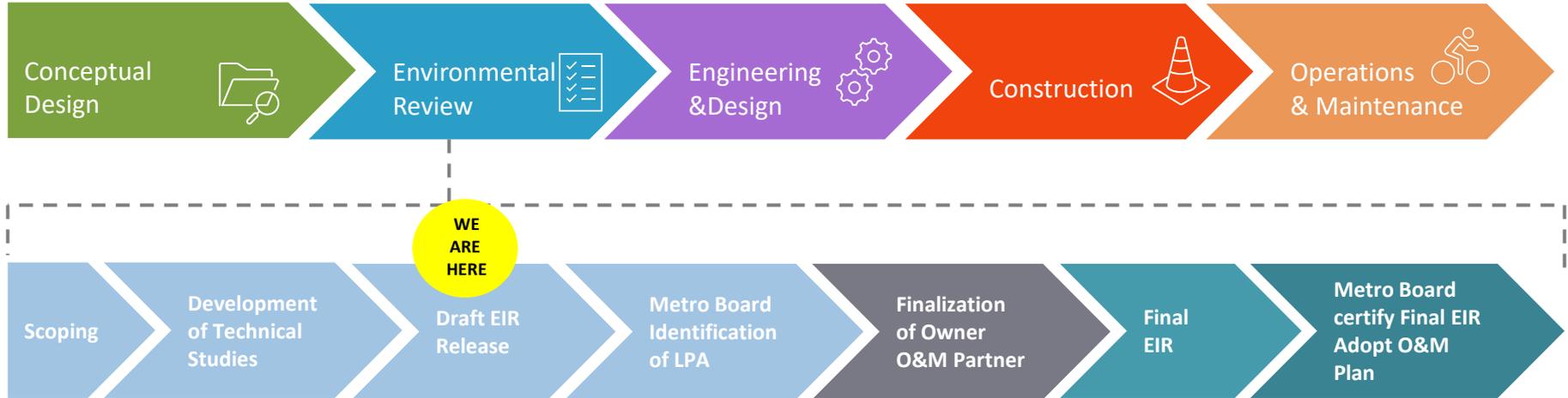


Notes:

\*Shortened North and Shortened South Alternatives are partial segments of the Proposed Project. The Percentage of Path Typology is expressed as % of the entire 8 miles to provide consistency in comparison of Path Typology Distribution between the Alternatives.

# Draft EIR and CEQA Findings

# Environmental Review Process



- Metro released the Draft EIR on Dec 18, 2025, with the 47-days Public Review period ending on Feb 02, 2026
- After public review of Draft EIR, Metro Board will consider identifying a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
- Concurrently, Metro will seek to Finalize the Owner, Operation, and Maintenance Agency for the Project
- Finally, with identified O&M agency and project delivery and funding plans, Metro Board will certify the Final EIR and adopt O&M Plan



# What is a Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and why is it important?

It's a formal study, required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), that:

- Analyzes the significant environmental impacts of each alternative
- Evaluates the impacts of each alternative on 18 environmental resources and other resources per CEQA
- Identifies ways to reduce or “mitigate” significant impacts where feasible
- Provides an opportunity for the public to review and weigh in before Metro moves forward



## Why does the Project matter to Metro?

- Provides safe alternative mode of transportation, especially for those who solely rely on public transportation
- Expand equitable access to jobs, housing, schools, and healthcare, by providing transportation infrastructure, especially to underinvested communities

# Environmental Resources Evaluated in the Draft EIR

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- **Geology**
- Green House Gas
- Hazardous Material
- Hydrology / Water Quality
- Land Use
- **Noise / Vibration**
- Population / Housing
- Public Service / Safety
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural
- Utilities
- Wildfire
- Other resources per CEQA

## Draft EIR Findings for All Alternatives

- No Long-Term environmental impacts
- Unavoidable temporary construction impacts to Geology and Noise/Vibration only



Note: bold font identifies the resources that will have unavoidable temporary construction impacts

# Significant & Unavoidable Construction Impacts Geology & Noise/Vibration

## Geology

**Significant & Unavoidable Impact: Have the potential to directly or indirectly impact unique paleontological resources**

Mitigation measures implemented would decrease the risk, but construction of the river crossings and elevated top-of-bank would require substantial excavation that would increase the potential of impact to paleontological resources

## Noise and Vibration

**Significant & Unavoidable Impact: Temporary or periodic increase in noise and vibration levels that exceed FTA impact criteria**

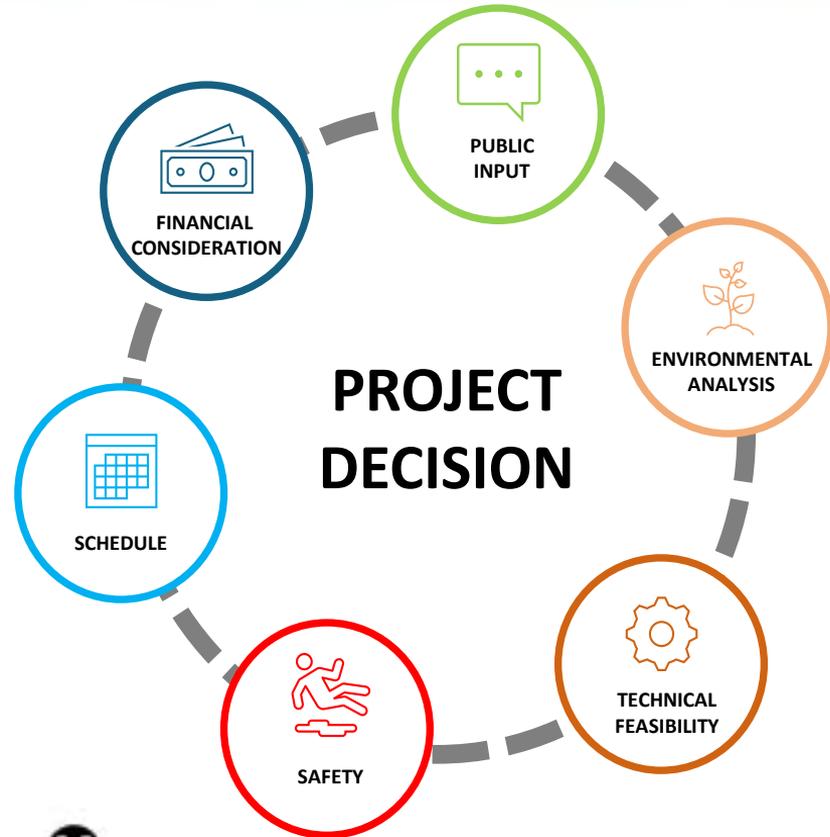
Mitigation measures implemented do not reduce noise and vibration thresholds during construction

# Summary of Potential CEQA Environmental Impacts for All Alternatives

Level of Impact	During Construction	During Operations (after completion of project)																		
<b>Significant &amp; Unavoidable</b>	Geology Noise / Vibration																			
<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	Biological Resource Cultural Resources Hazardous Materials Hydrology and Water Quality Tribal Cultural	Hydrology and Water Quality																		
<b>No Impact/ Or Less than Significant</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Aesthetics</td> <td>Air Quality</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Energy</td> <td>Greenhouse Gas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Land Use</td> <td>Population/Housing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Service / Safety</td> <td>Recreation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transportation</td> <td>Utilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wildfire</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Aesthetics	Air Quality	Energy	Greenhouse Gas	Land Use	Population/Housing	Public Service / Safety	Recreation	Transportation	Utilities	Wildfire		<p>All resources under “During Construction.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>+</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Biological Resources</td> <td>Cultural Resources</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geology</td> <td>Hazardous Materials</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Noise / Vibration</td> <td>Tribal Cultural</td> </tr> </table>	Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Geology	Hazardous Materials	Noise / Vibration	Tribal Cultural
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Geology	Hazardous Materials																			
Noise / Vibration	Tribal Cultural																			

# Next Steps

# What's coming up after the Public Commenting Period



- Develop Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for Metro Board's Consideration including
  - ✓ Understanding of community comments
  - ✓ Develop a Phasing Plan to determine initial segments to be constructed
  - ✓ **Identify agency partners to construct, operate and maintain the completed project**
  - ✓ Negotiate and Adopt Operation and Maintenance (O&M) agreement with partnering agency stakeholders
- For inclusion in the Final EIR:
  - ✓ Review and respond to public comments
  - ✓ Include a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) to address any project impacts identified in the environmental document

# How to Provide Comments

# Public Commenting Period and Public Hearings

- **Public Commenting Period: 47 Days (Dec 18, 2025 – Feb 02, 2026)**
- Provide comments by attending any of the four Public Hearing Sessions

January 21, 2026 Wednesday 6:30pm to 8:30 pm	January 27, 2026 Tuesday 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	January 29, 2026 Thursday 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	January 31, 2026 Saturday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Lincoln Heights Senior Center 2323 Workman Street Los Angeles, CA 90031	Maywood Center for Enriched Studies 5800 King Avenue Maywood, CA 90270	Via Zoom	Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez Senior High School 1200 Plaza del Sol Street Los Angeles, CA 90033

- Provide comments via
  - ✓ project website comment: <https://us.planengage.com/lariverbikepath>
  - ✓ via email: [lariverpath@metro.net](mailto:lariverpath@metro.net)
  - ✓ via mail: c/o Mitali Gupta, Project Manager  
Metro  
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-6, Los Angeles, CA 90012
  - ✓ via phone: 213-922-7001



# Draft EIR Online Commenting Option via PlanEngage

The screenshot displays the PlanEngage website for the LA River Path project. The browser address bar shows the URL <https://us.planengage.com/lariverbikepath/pages/welcome>. The website header includes the Metro logo and the title "LA River Path". A navigation menu on the left lists various sections, with "Draft EIR (PDF)" at the bottom. The main content area features a large image of a cyclist on a path with the text "LA River Path" overlaid. A "Comment" form is open on the right side of the page, containing the following fields:

- Name \***: Enter a response
- Mailing Address**: Enter a response
- Email Address \***: Enter a response
- Organization/Business**: Enter a response
- Comment \***: Provide your comments here. Enter a response
- File Uploads (Optional)**: CHOOSE FILES. Accepted formats: .jpg, .png, .png, .gif, .webp, .svg, .docx, .xlsx, .pdf. Note: Uploaded images will be accessible to the public. Note: 40MB file size limit per image.

Buttons for "DISCARD" and "SUBMIT" are located at the bottom of the form.



# Public Comment

## IT IS NOW TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

You will have one minute to speak

**1:00**



# Stay connected to the project



Metro c/o Mitali Gupta,  
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-6, Los  
Angeles, CA 90012



[lariverpath@metro.net](mailto:lariverpath@metro.net)



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