



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Notice of Availability and Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Document for East-West Connector Project

Fremont and Union City, CA – On December 11th, the Alameda County Transportation Authority (ACTA), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the cities of Fremont and Union City, will release the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) that analyzes potential impacts of implementing the project. Two public hearings will be held in January to provide the public with the opportunity to comment on the DEIR.

“The release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report is an important milestone in the progress of the East-West Connector Project under the Memorandum of Understanding between ACTA, Fremont, Union City and Caltrans,” said Arthur Dao, ACTA Deputy Director. “By improving the travel time of motorists and transit riders in the vicinity of the project, we anticipate substantial cumulative benefits over time.”

The East-West Connector Project is a 3-mile roadway project that would provide more direct east-west access between Interstate 880 (I-880) to the west and Mission Boulevard to the east in southern Alameda County. The proposed project would achieve this objective by widening existing portions of Decoto Road and Paseo Padre Parkway and constructing a new roadway from Paseo Padre Parkway to Mission Boulevard. The proposed project also would provide other infrastructure improvements along its entire length; for example, a continuous bike and pedestrian corridor from just east of I-880 to Mission Boulevard.

The primary objectives of the proposed project are to reduce local traffic congestion and travel time and to provide a more direct east-west link in the transportation network in Fremont and Union City. More specifically, the project would benefit the community by:

- Improving air quality by decreasing local traffic congestion
- Implementing planned transportation improvements upon which completed and planned developments in Fremont and Union City depend
- Improving access to transit facilities and businesses in the vicinity
- Improving transit operations in the vicinity by reducing congestion along existing and future transit routes
- Promoting the use of non-motorized transport
- Maximizing the use of public right-of-way in the Historic Corridor for transportation purposes

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Additionally, the proposed project would improve flood control by incorporating a diversion pipeline along the new roadway to supplement the existing Line M channel, which does not have adequate capacity to handle major storm events.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ACTA is holding two public hearings to receive comments on the DEIR. The public hearing format will be open-house style. At any time during the public hearings, any members of the public can provide formal comments on the DEIR in either of the following ways:

- 1) Verbally to the designated court reporter, or
- 2) In writing (comment cards will be available).

During the public hearings, project team members will be available to assist the public with review of the project displays and will provide a short overview presentation regarding the project and the environmental process. The same information and opportunity to comment will be provided at each public hearing.

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Kennedy Community Center
1333 Decoto Road
Union City, CA

Thursday, January 15, 2009

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Warwick Elementary School
3375 Warwick Road
Fremont, CA

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A copy of the DEIR will be available online for review at www.acta2002.com and at the following locations:

Alameda County Transportation Authority
1333 Broadway, Suite 300
Oakland, CA 94612

City of Fremont Planning Department
39550 Liberty Street
Fremont, CA 94538

Fremont Main Library
2400 Stevenson Boulevard
Fremont, CA 94538

City of Union City Planning Department
34009 Alvarado-Niles Road
Union City, CA 94587

Union City Library
34007 Alvarado-Niles Road
Union City, CA 94587

TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

In response to a request to extend the comment period, ACTA has extended the public review period from the typical 45 days to 60 days. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report must be received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 9, 2009 through any of the means noted below.

- Attend one of the two public hearings and provide written or verbal comments
- Mail: **EWC Environmental Document**
Stefan Garcia, EWC Project Manager
c/o CirclePoint
555 12th Street, Suite 290
Oakland, CA 94607
- E-mail: Eastwestconnector@circlepoint.com
- Fax: (510) 268-8499

For more information on the project or to request a copy of the DEIR, please contact Chris Colwick, East-West Connector Community Liaison, (415) 227-1100, ext. 131 or visit www.acta2002.com.