SAN JOSE TO MERCED
PROJECT SECTION

Local Policy Maker Group

March 24, 2022
SAN JOSE TO MERCED ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS
ENVIRONMENT IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIR/EIS)

Draft EIR/EIS
Draft Release and Public Comment Period Begins April 24, 2020
Public Comment Period Ends June 23, 2020

Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS
Draft Release and Public Comment Period Begins April 23, 2021
Public Comment Period Ends June 9, 2021

Final EIR/EIS
Published February 25, 2022
Board Consideration to Certify Final EIR/EIS and Approve ROD April 20-21, 2022

Community Working Group Meetings
San José: March 9, 2022, 6pm
Morgan Hill-Gilroy: March 10, 2022, 6pm
WHAT IS THE FINAL EIR/EIS?

» Comprehensive document that fulfills federal and state environmental review requirements, allowing the Authority to approve the project and proceed to final design and construction.

» The document includes:

• **Analysis** of alternatives based on preliminary design, including impacts/effects

• **Mitigations** proposed to reduce negative impacts/effects

• **Public comments** received on the Draft EIR/EIS and Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS and responses from the Authority

• **Revisions** to the Draft EIR/EIS made in response to comments
Some alternatives are the same for a portion of the route.

Alternative 4 remains Preferred Alternative in Final EIR/EIS.
## Design Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design Features</th>
<th>San Jose to Merced Project Section – Preferred Alternative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Length (linear miles)</td>
<td>88.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-grade (linear miles)</td>
<td>30.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viaduct (linear miles)</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embankment (linear miles)</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trench (linear miles)</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunnel (linear miles)</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Water Crossings</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Public At-grade Roadway Crossings (San Jose to Gilroy)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Number of Permanent Public and Private Roadway Closures | 4 closed, 3 realigned (San Jose to Gilroy)  
6 closed, 2 realigned (East of Gilroy to Carlucci Road) |
SAN JOSE TO MERCED
Benefits of the Preferred Alternative

- Fewest displacements
- Fewest road closures
- Fewest impacts on wetlands and habitats
- Good access to transit systems and services
- Fewest visual impacts
- Fewest impacts to parks
- Lowest capital cost
- Allows for extension of electrified Caltrain service to Gilroy
## Comments on Draft and Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Draft EIR/EIS</th>
<th>Revised/Supplemental Draft EIR/EIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comment Period</td>
<td>April 24 – June 23, 2020</td>
<td>April 23 – June 9, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Submissions</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments Received</td>
<td>4,887</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT HAS RESULTED FROM PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES?

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TOPICS

- Specific project alternatives
- Displacements
- Wildlife habitat and movement
- At-grade crossing safety and grade separations
- Emergency vehicle response delays
- Interaction with other projects
- Cultural resource effects
- Noise and vibration effects
- Traffic effects and mitigation
- Farmland effects
- Environmental Justice

MODIFIED AND ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

MODIFIED AND ADDITIONAL MITIGATIONS
The Board will consider whether to:

1. Certify the Final EIR/EIS as CEQA Lead Agency
2. Approve the Preferred Alternative and related CEQA decision documents
3. Direct the Authority Chief Executive Officer to issue the Record of Decision (ROD) under the Authority’s NEPA Assignment
**NEXT STEPS**

**Seek Funding**
From state and federal sources

**Advance Project Work**
Including design, third-party agreements, right-of-way mapping, appraisals

**Continued Engagement**
Separate engagement during design phase

**Ongoing Updates**
Meetings, social media, newsletters, email, phone
STATEWIDE UPDATES
STATEWIDE UPDATES

• Draft 2022 Business Plan
  » Issued February 8, 2022, with a 60-day public comment period. (view document)

• #Valley2Valley Connection
  » Business leaders from Silicon Valley and the Central Valley discussed the importance of connecting the two regions via high-speed rail. (view video)

• San Francisco to San José Project Section
  » Final EIR/EIS set for release in Q2 2022.

Find more news and updates in the Winter 2022 Quarterly Newsletter
SPRING 2022 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE VIDEO

Watch the full Spring Construction Update video here: https://youtu.be/gAZqaESaZLg