



City of Beverly Hills

**Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and
Notice of Public Scoping Meeting**

DATE: Thursday, September 19, 2019 **TIME:** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Municipal Gallery, Beverly Hills City Hall, 2nd Floor, 455 North Rexford Drive,
Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

PROJECT: Westside Purple Line Extension Wilshire/Rodeo Station North Portal Project

The City of Beverly Hills (City) is the lead agency in preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Westside Purple Line Extension Wilshire/Rodeo Station North Portal (proposed project). The Draft EIR will evaluate the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project and provide mitigation measures where required. The public is invited to attend a public scoping meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. to provide comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR, including environmental issues that should be addressed in the Draft EIR.

Project Location: The proposed project to be evaluated in the Draft EIR involves the construction of a station entrance and exit to the Purple Line's Wilshire/Rodeo Station on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard, in addition to the currently planned station entrance on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard adjacent to Reeves Drive. The Draft EIR will evaluate three alternative locations all within the City of Beverly Hills adjacent to the future Metro Wilshire/Rodeo Station now under construction as part of the Metro Purple Line Extension (Section 2) Project. The Wilshire/Rodeo Station footprint is located immediately beneath Wilshire Boulevard between South Cañon Drive and El Camino Drive. The location of the proposed project sites and the footprint of each alternative location is shown in Figure 1. Regional access is provided via Interstate 10, located approximately 2.5 miles south of the project sites, and Interstate 405, located approximately 3.15 miles to the west of the project sites.

- The Beverly Drive Alternative would place the north entrance/exit on the west side of N. Beverly Drive, within the existing street right-of-way north of Wilshire Boulevard. The footprint of this alternative would be approximately 9,200 square feet and would extend from its connection to the Wilshire/Rodeo Station at Wilshire Boulevard to approximately 165 feet north along North Beverly Drive.
- The Cañon Drive Alternative would place the north entrance/exit on the west side of Cañon Drive, within the existing street right-of-way north of Wilshire Boulevard. The footprint of this alternative would be approximately 8,100 square feet and would extend from its connection to the Wilshire/Rodeo Station at Wilshire Boulevard to approximately 195 feet north along North Cañon Drive.
- The Cañon Drive Staging Yard Alternative would place the north entrance within Metro's existing construction staging yard that has been established for Section 2 of the Purple Line Extension Project, on the northeast corner of Cañon Drive and Wilshire Boulevard. The footprint of this alternative would be approximately 6,200 square feet and would occupy assessor parcel numbers 4343-005-901 and 4343-005-900.



Source: Google Earth Aerial, 2019.



0 100 200 Feet

- Wilshire/Rodeo Station (under construction)
- North Entrance Alternatives

- a. Beverly Drive Alternative
- b. Cañon Drive Alternative
- c. Cañon Drive Staging Yard Alternative

Figure 1
Location of the
Proposed Project

Project Background: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Metro prepared the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Westside Subway Extension Project (now known as the Purple Line Extension Project) in 2010. Upon evaluation of five station entrance alternatives for the Wilshire/Rodeo Station in the Draft EIS/EIR and supporting Alternatives Analysis Study, Metro and the FTA recommended a single preferred entrance for the Wilshire/Rodeo Station. The Final EIS/EIR for the Westside Subway Extension Project certified in May 2012, included the single preferred entrance.

In November 2017, the FTA issued a Supplemental EIS and Section 4(f) Evaluation pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for Section 2 of the Purple Line Extension Project, including a Supplemental Record of Decision. The Supplemental EIS stated that the Wilshire/Rodeo Station will be designed with a knockout panel, allowing for the development of a future station entrance on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard. Section 2 of the Purple Line Extension Project is currently under construction and is expected to begin operations in 2025.

The Wilshire/Rodeo Station under construction within the City of Beverly Hills will have only one entrance on the southwest corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Reeves Drive, per the Final EIS/EIR. In 2018, the City approached Metro to provide a secondary entrance/exit on the north side of the Wilshire/Rodeo Station to deliver a convenient northern entrance/exit to the Wilshire/Rodeo Station and improved passenger access within the City.

Purpose and Need for the Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to provide an entrance/exit to the Wilshire/Rodeo Station on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard thereby delivering improved and convenient public access to the Beverly Hills “Golden Triangle”, a prime local and regional destination and a key hub for tourism, shopping, and dining experiences. The north portal is expected to improve pedestrian and vehicle access by minimizing pedestrian crossings from the south to north side of Wilshire Boulevard. In addition, the northern side of the Wilshire/Rodeo Station is a major employment center. The City seeks to support commuting workers in this area with a more convenient station entrance and exit. Therefore, the need for the proposed Westside Purple Line Wilshire/Rodeo Station North Portal Project includes the following:

- To provide convenient access to the north for residents and visitors to the City due to high number of jobs and tourist amenities north of Wilshire.
- To improve pedestrian flow by providing more than one entrance/exit to avoid bottlenecks at peak hours.

Project Description: The proposed project would provide a station entrance/exit for the Wilshire/Rodeo Station, on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard to facilitate direct access from the Wilshire/Rodeo Station to the dense commercial and tourism activity center located north of Wilshire Boulevard. Three potential north portal station entrance/exit alternatives are being considered: Beverly Drive Alternative; Cañon Drive Alternative; and Cañon Drive Staging Yard Alternative. Each Alternative would include:

- an aboveground street level entrance/exit;
- a limited intermediate stairway to a landing level; and
- a walkway or concourse level.

The street level would comprise the north portal entrance/exit, including elevator, stairway, and escalator. The intermediate stairway landing level would consist of a landing area serving as a transition between stairways. The walkway or concourse level would consist of an open area with adequate space for passengers to ingress and egress from stairways, escalators, and elevators. The open area would also include a Metro ticket purchasing area followed by a passageway or walkway leading to the fare and turnstile gates and then the Wilshire/Rodeo Station walkway previously approved in the Metro and FTA EIS/EIR and over which the City does not have approval authority. As part of the proposed alternatives, other minor supporting elements or ancillary facilities would also be provided as needed.

Probable Environmental Effects of the Project: An Initial Study has not been completed in preparation of this NOP, as the City has determined an EIR will be prepared. Therefore, all CEQA environmental topics will be discussed and analyzed in the EIR to an appropriate level of detail. However, at this time, the City anticipates vehicular traffic will be impacted during the construction and operation of the Beverly Drive and Cañon Drive Alternatives, as some traffic lanes may need to be closed to accommodate the north portal. In addition, the project may have other construction-related impacts such as noise and air quality impacts.

Purpose of the Scoping Meeting: The purpose of the scoping meeting is to present the preliminary environmental issues identified for inclusion in the Draft EIR to the public, and to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on environmental issues that should be addressed in the Draft EIR. The meeting will include a presentation that describes the proposed project and the environmental issues to analyze in the Draft EIR. Following the presentation, interested agencies, organizations, and members of the public will be invited to present their views concerning what environmental issues should be included in the Draft EIR. All oral and written comments made during the scoping meeting will be recorded. The intent is that the scoping meeting and period will allow the team to gather an inventory of potential environmental effects from agencies and the public that will be considered for inclusion in the Draft EIR.

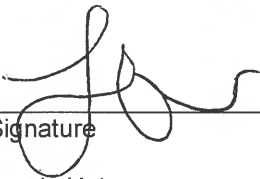
32-Day Comment Period: The City invites all interested members of the public to provide written comments on issues related to potential environmental impacts during a 32-day scoping comment period, which will commence on Thursday, September 5, 2019, and will conclude on Monday, October 7, 2019.

Written comments should be addressed to:

Jessie Holzer, Transportation Planner
City of Beverly Hills Community Development Department
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California, 90210
Email: jholzer@beverlyhills.org

All comments received during scoping will be compiled and put in a scoping report and appended to the Draft EIR. After preparation of the Draft EIR, it will be released for public review and comment. Separate notices advising on the availability of the Draft EIR and details of a public hearing for the proposed project will be released at later dates.

Project information is available for public review at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California, 90210 and online at www.beverlyhills.org/environmental and www.beverlyhills.org/northportal. If there are any questions regarding this notice, or if you would like to review the project information or receive copies of available documents, please contact Jessie Holzer, Transportation Planner, at (310) 285-1171 or via email at jholzer@beverlyhills.org.



Signature

Jessie Holzer
Print Name

September 5, 2019
Date

Transportation Planner
Title