

## CHAPTER 6.0 PUBLIC AND AGENCY OUTREACH

This chapter documents the implementation of the Public Involvement Plan (Appendix B) and the EIS/EIR phases of the project in compliance with NEPA and CEQA. Outreach efforts during the Draft EIS/EIR process were performed in accordance with U.S. Code Title 23, Section 139, and were inclusive and encouraging of community participation. FTA and SANBAG sought extensive coordination with other federal, state, local, and tribal entities during the scoping process and throughout the Draft EIS/EIR phase of the Project. This chapter provides summary highlights of the outreach efforts and specifically addresses the public participation process and activities from early scoping through the formal scoping period, and during subsequent preparation of the Draft EIS/EIR.

### 6.1 SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS OF OUTREACH EFFORTS

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process. It helps planners to determine the necessary scope of environmental documentation as well as the level of analysis required to evaluate potential effects and identify appropriate mitigation measures. Agency consultation and public participation for the Project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and information outreach methods, including Project development team meetings, interagency coordination meetings, public scoping meetings, and SANBAG website notification.

### 6.2 BACKGROUND

The Project would provide a cost-effective, alternative travel option for communities located along the Redlands Corridor in a way that improves transit mobility, travel times, and corridor safety, while allowing for the continuation of existing freight service. The RPRP would provide travelers and commuters with a new mobility option within a dedicated ROW that would be capable of achieving shorter travel times than automobiles.

The following alternatives and design options were analyzed in the Draft EIS/EIR:

- Alternative 1 – No Build
- Alternative 2 – Preferred Project
- Alternative 3 – Reduced Project Footprint
- Design Option 1 – Train Layover Facility (Waterman Avenue)
- Design Option 2 – Use of Existing Train Layover Facilities
- Design Option 3 – Waterman Avenue Rail Platform

### 6.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)

In order to ensure that the public was informed and had opportunities to comment at key milestones of the Project, a detailed PIP was developed at the commencement of the Draft EIS/EIR. The Plan includes a list of target audiences, communications protocols, and a detailed



discussion of various public outreach activities. The full PIP is provided as Appendix B. The goals of the PIP are to:

- Conduct a public outreach effort that is open, honest and transparent with all stakeholders throughout the various phases of the environmental review process
- Accurately document public input and meet all NEPA and CEQA requirements
- Identify and address public interests and issues to help shape and refine project alternatives
- Provide multiple, convenient ways for interested parties to provide comments
- Engage a broad, representative cross section of the public to help ensure the EIS/EIR reflects and incorporates agency and public input
- Increase project awareness among stakeholders, especially those directly impacted by the Project.

An important step of the PIP is to identify target audiences. With Project-facilities proposed in the cities of San Bernardino and Redlands, it is important to communicate with organizations, entities, and key stakeholders that are representative of each community. Additionally, with state and federal implications as it relates to permitting and approvals, target audiences need to reflect the appropriate agencies/entities. The following is a list of target audiences by sector:

- **Businesses/Institutions**
  - Priority: Directly impacted/affected (e.g., ESRI; University of Redlands; Businesses affected by right-of-way temporary construction easements, and partial and full property takes)
  - General: within cities of Redlands and San Bernardino – Downtown Redlands, Downtown San Bernardino, San Bernardino International Airport, Inland Valley Development Agency, Citrus Plaza, University/College Satellite Campuses off of Hospitality Lane near Waterman Avenue; Hospitality Lane Business Corridor
- **Residents/Community Organizations**
  - Redlands, San Bernardino, Loma Linda
  - Prominent community members/opinion leaders
  - Service organizations, neighborhood organizations/associations
  - Faith-based entities
  - Redlands Unified School District; San Bernardino City Unified School District
- **Elected Officials – City, County, State, Federal**
  - Redlands and San Bernardino City Councils, leadership, key department officials (public works, planning, emergency responders, etc.)
  - County Supervisors Josie Gonzales and Neil Derry
  - State Senators Gloria Negrete McLeod and Bob Dutton
  - State Assembly Members Wilmer Amina Carter and Mike Morrell
  - U.S. Congressman Joe Baca and Jerry Lewis
  - U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein

- Agencies and Project Coordination
  - San Bernardino County Flood Control District
  - Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
  - Metrolink/Southern California Regional Rail Authority
  - Caltrans
  - Omnitrans
  - California Public Utilities Commission
  - FTA
  - SANBAG
  - Southern California Associated Governments
  - South Coast Air Quality Management District
  - Federal Railroad Administration
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Local Media
  - Dailies: Redlands Daily Facts, San Bernardino Sun, Press-Enterprise
  - Weeklies: Inland Empire Community Newspapers, La Prensa
  - Broadcast: KVCR TV & Radio, Inland News Today, Inland Empire Media Group
  - SANBAG Website

## 6.4 GOVERNMENT AND OTHER AGENCY CONSULTATION

### 6.4.1 U.S. Code Title 23, Section 139

U.S. Code Title 23, Section 139 is intended to promote efficient project management by lead agencies and enhanced opportunities for coordination with the public and with other federal, state, local, and tribal government agencies during the project development process. As part of the environmental review process, the lead agency must identify as early as practicable, any other federal or non-federal agencies that may have an interest in the project, and invite such agencies to become participating agencies in the environmental review process. Consistent with U.S. Code Title 23, Section 139, FTA and SANBAG, as the lead agencies for the Project, prepared an Agency Coordination Plan to provide opportunities for cooperating and participating agencies to be involved, and guide agency involvement in decision-making related to the completion of the NEPA environmental review process. The Agency Coordination Plan is included in Appendix B.

U.S. Code Title 23, Section 139 emphasizes public participation, requiring that the public participation plans of metropolitan planning processes “be developed in consultation with all interested parties and provide that all interested parties have reasonable opportunities to comment on the contents of the transportation plan.” U.S. Code Title 23, Section 139 also expanded the definition of participation by “interested parties” to include partners, groups, and individuals who are affected by or involved with transportation in the appropriate county and the surrounding region. Examples stated include citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with a



reasonable opportunity to comment on the transportation plan. The PIP for this Project was developed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. Code Title 23, Section 139 and conforms to the public participation requirements of NEPA and CEQA.

#### **6.4.2 Section 106 Coordination**

The extensive effort to contact, identify, and consult with various cultural groups and agencies to identify traditional cultural properties and cultural practices during the environmental planning process has been documented for the Section 106 consultation process. The purpose of consultation is to identify cultural resources and other concerns relating to the Project's potential effects on cultural resources. Information is sought from individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of potential resources in the Study Area.

During the process of completing archival research and conducting field studies for historic resources, the team maintained communication with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and other jurisdictional agencies including the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(a)(3), on April 4, 2012, letters were sent to consulting and interested parties who may have knowledge or concerns with historic properties in the area, and to request information regarding any historic buildings, districts, sites, objects, or archaeological sites of significance within the APE. The letters were sent to the following recipients:

- California Historical Society
- City of San Bernardino Planning Department
- Orange Empire Railway Museum
- Riverside Historical Society
- City of Redlands Planning Department
- Redlands Area Historical Society
- Redlands Historical Museum Association, Inc.
- San Bernardino County Museum
- San Bernardino History and Railroad Museum
- San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society
- San Bernardino Railroad Historical Society
- Loma Linda Parks and Historical Society
- City of Loma Linda Planning Department

Based on the letter received from the NAHC on April 18, 2012, a search of the sacred lands file identified no Native American Cultural Resources within the area of potential effect (APE). As recommended by the NAHC, individuals who may have further knowledge on sacred or prehistoric cultural resources within the Study Area were contacted. These included individuals from the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Gabrielino Tongva Nation, Gabrielino Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Serrano Nation of Indians, and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians. On February 14, 2013, tribal consultation letters were sent from FTA. No response letters have been received prior to the release of the Draft EIS/EIR.



Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment. The historic preservation review process mandated by Section 106 is outlined in regulations issued by ACHP. Revised regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800), became effective January 11, 2001. In accordance with these regulations, on August 24, 2012, FTA sent a letter to SHPO initiating formal consultation for cultural, archaeological, and historical resources (see Appendix O). The letter also requested SHPO concurrence on the APE for the Project and delegation of Section 106 coordination to SANBAG. In a conference call held on October 17, 2012, FTA consulted with SHPO to discuss the Project and to determine the Section 106 identification effort. On November 29, 2012, SANBAG sent a formal letter requesting SHPO's approval of the APE and the use of a streamlined methodology for determining important architectural properties. On January 14, 2013, SHPO concurred with the streamlined approach to determining important architectural properties. SHPO's January 14, 2013 letter also requested that the APE should include historic properties in their entirety. Consequently, on March 15, 2013, SANBAG sent a formal letter including a hardcopy map of the updated APE that more clearly demonstrates the inclusion of historical properties (in their entirety) within the APE. On April 24, 2013, SHPO concurred with the revised APE and on June 4, 2013, SHPO approved the testing plan for archaeological resources within Redlands Chinatown. On August 14, 2014, SHPO concurred that the Project would have no adverse effect to the following historic properties:

- Redlands Santa Fe Historic District and contributing properties, including the Redlands Santa Fe Depot;
- Second Baptist Church;
- Victoria Elementary School; and
- Redlands Lawn Bowling Club.

On October 30, 2012, SANBAG initiated consultation with the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and Redlands Conservancy (see Appendix N) notifying them of known cultural resources within the APE and requesting comments in regards to those resources. Additionally, on February 14, 2013, FTA initiated consultation with appropriate tribes (see Appendix N) notifying them of known cultural resources within the APE and requesting comments in regards to those resources. The following cultural resources have been identified within the APE:

- The Gage Canal (CA-SBR-7168);
- The Elephant Orchards Packing House site (CA-SBR-11856H);
- The Redway House (CA-SBR-5313H);
- The Redlands Chinatown site (CA-SBR-5314H); and
- The Mill Creek Zanja (CA-SBR-8092H).

SANBAG provided a preliminary draft of the Cultural Resources TM to SHPO for review and comment on August 20, 2013. SHPO provided comments on the preliminary draft Cultural Resources TM on October 9, 2013. On July 28, 2014, SANBAG provided a response letter and updated Cultural Resources TM to SHPO. On August 14, 2014, SHPO concurred that the segment of the Mill Creek Zanja within the APE is not eligible to the NRHP due to lack of integrity and setting. SHPO also concurred that portions of the Redway House and Redlands



Chinatown within the Project APE were not eligible for the NRHP. The Cultural Resources TM (Revised) provided in Appendix M of this EIS/EIR was subsequently updated in response to SHPO's concurrence letter on August 14, 2014 and reflects minor updates requested.

### **6.4.3 Section 4(f) Resources Notification**

In accordance with 23 CFR – Part 774, FTA and SANBAG are required to coordinate with entities having jurisdiction or ownership over existing or planned park and recreation amenities, including trails. On August 1, 2012, letters were mailed to provide notice that improvements associated with the Project would occur in close proximity to resources owned and/or managed by the following entities:

- City of Redlands: East Valley Corridor Multi-Purpose Trail, Jennie Davis Park, Orange Blossom Trail, and Sylvan Park
- City of San Bernardino: Meadowbrook Fields and Meadowbrook Park
- Redlands Unified School District: Victoria Elementary School (Victoria Park), Franklin Elementary School, and Orangewood High School
- San Bernardino County Parks and Recreation Department: Santa Ana River Trail

The letters are intended to provide notification about the start of the environmental review process for the Project and to seek the abovementioned entities' input on potential impacts to their existing or planned park and recreation amenities. On August 6, 2012, subsequent contact with the entities included an email summarizing the contents of the notification letter sent the week prior. On June 7, 2013, letters were mailed to the entities concerning the contents of the notification letters and potential 4(f) uses of existing or planned park and recreation amenities as written concurrence has yet to be received. Coordination letters were also sent out on September 24, 2014 during the Draft EIS/EIR public review period. The San Bernardino County Parks and Recreation Department provided a concurrence letter on November 6, 2014. The City of Redlands provided a concurrence letter in February 2015. A copy of the Section 4(f) notification letters are provided in Appendix O.

### **6.4.4 Section 7 Consultation**

FTA sent a letter to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on May 1, 2013 requesting to initiate formal Section 7 Consultation for direct and indirect Project-related impacts to habitat occupied by federally listed species and federally designated critical habitat (see Section 3.7, Biological Resources and Appendix I4). SANBAG and USFWS conducted a field walk on July 15, 2013 to go over the Project features proposed by SANBAG and observe habitats adjacent to the ROW that may be affected by construction activities, including those at the Santa Ana River. USFWS forwarded a letter dated August 9, 2013 requesting additional information in order to complete the initiation package, including concurrence from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that FTA will act as the lead Federal agency for the Section 7 Consultation process. On December 12, 2013, FTA provided USFWS with a letter requesting initiation of Section 7 consultation. The letter also included information requested in USFWS's August 9, 2013 letter, including a draft BA (Appendix I3) for USFWS's review and concurrence. On January 31, 2014, USFWS issued a letter indicating that formal Section 7 Consultation for the Project started on January 7, 2014, and that USFWS would issue a biological opinion within 135 days (see Appendix I4). On May 13, 2014, USFWS requested and



was granted a 60-day extension until July 21, 2014. An additional request for a subsequent 30-day extension to August 21, 2014 was filed on July 23, 2014.

Due to overlapping Federal and State listings for both LBV and Woolly star, coordination on the mitigation for these species was conducted with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in December 2014 and January 2015. USFWS issued the final BO on February 9, 2015, which is included as Appendix I6.

## **6.5 ANTICIPATED AGENCY APPROVALS AND PERMITS**

As previously presented in Section 2.13, the lead agency for the Project is SANBAG for CEQA compliance and FTA for NEPA compliance. It is anticipated that coordination with federal, state, and local agencies will be required for approvals and the issuance of permits for the construction of the Project. A list of the identified approvals and permits, including brief descriptions of the jurisdiction and purpose is presented in Table 2-8.

## **6.6 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

### **6.6.1 Alternatives Analysis Outreach**

During the initial planning phase of the Project, including the initial Alternatives Analysis (AA) phase and the subsequent Strategic Plan phases, public involvement activities were primarily focused on public meetings to engage the public at key milestones. During the AA phase of the project, one public meeting was held on September 13, 2010 at the City of Redlands - ESRI Café, to present alternative transit modes (commuter rail, light rail, diesel multiple units and bus rapid transit) being considered for the Project, and transit-oriented land use development scenarios. A second round of informational meetings was conducted on May 11, 2011 at the City of Redlands - ESRI Café and May 12, 2011 at the Santa Fe Depot in San Bernardino.

These three-hour meetings were held to inform the public about each of the alternatives being analyzed by the project development team and to solicit public feedback/input before recommending a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) to SANBAG for adoption.

Nearly 200 people, consisting of residents, employees, community leaders and city officials, attended the two meetings held at the ESRI Cafe in Redlands and City of San Bernardino Economic Development Agency Business Center in Downtown San Bernardino. Holding two meetings – one on each end of the project area – allowed the project development team to maximize attendance and better reach the target audiences.

The meeting format consisted of a short welcome given by SANBAG Public Information Officer Jane Dreher, a brief overview of the projects by Mitch Alderman, Director of Transit and Rail Programs, SANBAG, and a 10-minute presentation about the specifics of the Redlands Corridor Alternatives Analysis. Following the presentation, the meeting broke into an open house format. This format allowed participants to go to several information areas to discuss and learn about potential transit alternatives under consideration, station locations, transit oriented development, environmental considerations and funding issues. Project staff members were at each information area that corresponded with their area of expertise to address specific questions from attendees.

## 6.6.2 Stakeholder and Community Outreach

As a first step prior to scoping, SANBAG identified and met with a mix of agencies, local community members, environmental and other stakeholders during the course of 2011 for early input on issues and interests to consider as well as the preferred methods of informing and involving them throughout the Project development. This process led to the compilation of a list of interested parties to be included in future public noticing. Moving forward, SANBAG will be engaging these representatives and groups through the following means:

- Presentations and updates at standing meetings/bodies
- Small group meetings on specific topics of interest
- Newsletters and media outreach

Pursuant to NEPA, a Notice of Intent (NOI) was prepared for the Project to inform interested parties of the plan to prepare an EIS/EIR, provide information on the nature of the Project, invite participation in the EIS/EIR process, provide opportunity for the public and agencies to comment on the scope of the EIS/EIR, and to announce that public scoping meetings that would be conducted as part of the EIS.

The NOP, NOI, Distribution List for the public comment period, and a Final Scoping Report are provided under Appendix A to this EIS/EIR. The Preliminary Agency Coordination Plan and Public Involvement Plan are included under Appendix B to this EIS/EIR.

## 6.6.3 Notice of Preparation

Early in 2012, SANBAG began preparation of a joint Environmental Assessment (EA)/EIR to satisfy NEPA and CEQA compliance for the Project. In accordance with Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was prepared and distributed to the State Clearinghouse (SCH), responsible and trustee agencies, as well as private organizations and individuals that may have an interest in the Project. The 30-day public comment period for the NOP began on April 10, 2012, and ended on May 12, 2012. The NOP was posted with the San Bernardino County Clerk's office and SCH at the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to officially solicit statewide agency comments on the scope of the environmental document. The purpose of the NOP was to provide notification that SANBAG, as the lead agency under CEQA, planned to prepare an EIR for the Project. The NOP was mailed to adjacent property owners and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals. At the end of the 30-day public comment period for the NOP, 17 comment letters were received from individuals, organizations, and public agencies (see Appendix A).

Two scoping meetings were scheduled during the course of the 30-day NOP public review period. These meetings were held at the following locations located along the Study Area:

- April 24, 2012, 5:00–7:00 PM. ESRI Café, 380 New York Street, Redlands, CA 92373
- May 2, 2012, 5:00–7:00 PM. San Bernardino Hilton, 285 East Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino, CA 92408, University Room

## 6.6.4 Notice of Intent

Based on the amount of comments received during the NOP public comment period and the nature of those comments received, the controversial nature of project implementation and potential for adverse environmental effects became apparent. In addition, based on the

preliminary results of several technical studies made available in support of the EA, and after careful review and assessment of potential adverse impacts of the Project on the quality of the human, physical, and biological environment, SANBAG and FTA were not confident that the results of these analyses would support the preparation of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) after the preparation of an EA. For this reason and based on the schedule and budget implications of continuing with the preparation of an EA, the decision was made to transition the NEPA document to an EIS due to probable environmental effects associated with the Project that may result in significant impacts. As such, this EIS/EIR is being prepared for the Project and provides the basis for a Record of Decision.

FTA filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS on July 31, 2012 per the requirements of NEPA. The purpose of the NOI is to describe the proposed action, possible alternatives, and the lead agency's proposed scoping process. The notice was filed in the Federal Register and coordinated with notification to the print media (newspapers) in the local communities. The issuance of the NOI starts an additional 30-day public comment period, which provides the public and agencies with another opportunity to comment on the RPRP. In conjunction with the release of the NOI, a notice for two new project scoping meetings was provided and scheduled to occur during the course of the 30-day comment period. Following the release of the NOI, it was determined that the NOI contained an address for the meeting in San Bernardino that was different than the address contained in the public notice circulated in local newspapers and mailings. As a result and to avoid confusion, FTA issued a Notice of Correction on August 17, 2012 to clarify the location of the scoping meetings in the Federal Register, which required a change in the dates for the scoping meetings and duration of the noticing period. This correction extended the comment period, which originally had ended on August 31 to October 11, 2012. The two additional scoping meetings were held on September 25, 2012 in the City of Redlands and on September 27, 2012 in the City of San Bernardino. The rescheduled dates and locations are provided in Table 6-1. At the end of the public comment period for the NOI, 14 comment letters were received from individuals, organizations, and public agencies (see Appendix A).

### **6.6.5 Notice of Availability**

The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIS/EIR was published in the Federal Register on August 15, 2014. In addition, on August 6, 2014, the NOA for the Project's Draft EIS/EIR was filed with the San Bernardino County Clerk's Office, State Clearinghouse, and sent to the mailing list (i.e., government agencies, interested parties, and property owners and mailing addresses for all parcels adjacent to the nine-mile stretch of the Project). The NOA was noticed via an email blast, SANBAG's Home Page, and in the San Bernardino Sun and the Redlands Daily Facts. Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR, including the NOA, were also mailed to each of the Participating and Cooperating Agencies in the NEPA process (which also included Responsible Agencies as defined by CEQA). The public review period for the Draft EIS/EIR concluded on September 29, 2014.

A copy of the Draft EIS/EIR was available for public review at the following locations:

- SANBAG – 1170 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, San Bernardino, CA
- City of San Bernardino – 300 North "D" Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, San Bernardino, CA
- City of Redlands, Development Services Department, Planning Division – 210 East Citrus Avenue, Redlands, CA



- Norman F. Feldheym Public Library – 555 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, San Bernardino, CA
- University of Redlands Library – 1249 E. Colton Avenue, Redlands, CA.

An electronic version of the document was also made available on <http://www.sanbag.ca.gov>.

### 6.6.6 Scoping Meetings

As part of the community outreach for the Project, scoping meetings were held to provide the public the opportunity to comment on the project purpose and need, the alternatives to be considered, and issues and areas of concern to be considered in the EIS/EIR. Prior to the public meetings, information regarding the opportunity for public comments on the Project were made available through a variety of sources, including display advertisements, certified mail, email blasts, and information flier distribution. The locations, dates, and number of attendees at each of these meetings are shown below in Table 6-1.

**Table 6-1. RPRP Scoping Meetings**

Location	Date and Time	Number of Attendees	Notice Type
ESRI Café 380 New York Street Redlands, CA 92373	Tuesday, April 24, 2012 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	70	NOP
San Bernardino Hilton, University Room 285 East Hospitality Lane San Bernardino, CA 92408	Wednesday, May 2, 2012 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	40	NOP
San Bernardino Hilton, University Room 285 East Hospitality Lane San Bernardino, CA 92408	Tuesday, September 25, 2012 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	32	NOI
ESRI Café 380 New York Street Redlands, CA 92373	Thursday, September 27, 2012 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	30	NOI

The scoping meetings were conducted in the following format:

- Introduction: 10-15 minutes
- Presentation and Project Overview: 30 minutes
- Public Comment and Open Forum: 45 minutes

The meetings started with a brief introduction of SANBAG’s representatives for the Project and its consultant team. As part of the introduction, SANBAG provided a brief overview of the goals and objectives for the meeting along with the format of the meeting.

Following the introductions, a PowerPoint presentation provided a general overview of the Project. The presentation provided information regarding the purpose of scoping and information on the Project’s purpose and need, background, and the alternatives being carried forward for consideration in the EIS/EIR.

An open forum comment period followed the presentation which provided attendees the opportunity to state their comments. This included an opportunity for the public to have the comments transcribed. A language interpreter was present during the public meetings to assist any non-English speaking community members. This portion of the scoping meeting was utilized to hear the community’s comments and concerns on the Project. Comment cards were

provided to allow the public to note any questions or concerns. Following the open forum comment period, the meeting transitioned into an open house forum to provide attendees with an opportunity to review project information and to ask project team members with questions. Five members of the Project team were oriented at different locations in the room to provide information on particular aspects of the Project (i.e., engineering, environmental, grade crossings). Project information was provided on large-sized display boards. The display boards were utilized to depict the general location of the Project as well as the locations of proposed track improvements, platforms, bridges, layover facilities, and grade crossings.

In conjunction with the release of the Draft EIS/EIR for public review, SANBAG held additional public meetings concurrent with the public review period. The public meetings were held on:

1. September 4, 2014, 5:00–7:00 PM, at the ESRI Café, 380 New York Street, Redlands, CA 92373; and
2. September 9, 2014, 5:00–7:00 PM, at the Hotel, 285 East Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino, CA 92408

In addition to receiving written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR, SANBAG had a report reporting in attendance to transcribe verbal comments on the Draft EIS/EIR. Both a Spanish and ASL interpreter were also in attendance at each of the meetings.

### Advertisements

Display advertisements for the scoping meetings were placed in newspapers within the local communities, selected based on geographic focus and language needs. Newspaper advertisements were strategically placed in local newspapers to reach out to the population residing and/or working along the entire nine-mile stretch of the Study Area. To date, scoping meetings were advertised in the *San Bernardino Sun*, *Redlands Daily Facts*, and *Inland Empire Community Newspapers*. These newspapers target the following audience: San Bernardino County, City of Redlands, communities in Loma Linda, Highland, Rialto, and Colton, and Spanish-speakers.

Scoping meeting information for the NOP was advertised in the *San Bernardino Sun*, *Redlands Daily Facts*, and *Inland Empire Community Newspapers* on April 12, 2012. Two additional project scoping meetings were provided and scheduled in conjunction with the release of the NOI. Scoping meeting information for the NOI was advertised in the *San Bernardino Sun* and *Redlands Daily Facts* on July 31, 2012. As mentioned previously, following the release of the NOI, it was determined that the NOI contained an address for the meeting in San Bernardino that was different than the address contained in the public notice circulated in local newspapers and mailings. Consequently, advertisements were published in the *San Bernardino Sun* and *Redlands Daily Facts* on August 13 and August 14, 2012, respectively to inform the public of the rescheduled scoping meeting in San Bernardino and the extension of the NOI public comment period. Another round of advertisements with NOI scoping meeting information was published in the *San Bernardino Sun* on September 24, 2012 and in the *Redlands Daily Facts* and *Inland Empire Community Newspapers* on September 25, 2012.

A list of newspapers and advertisement publication dates is provided in Table 6-2. A representative sampling of the advertisements and notifications is presented as Appendix A5, Public Notices.



**Table 6-2. RPRP Scoping Period Display Advertising**

<b>Newspaper(s)</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>Notice Type</b>
<i>San Bernardino Sun, Redlands Daily Facts, and Inland Empire Community Newspapers</i>	April 12, 2012	NOP
<i>San Bernardino Sun</i>	July 31, 2012 August 13, 2012 September 24, 2012	NOI
<i>Redlands Daily Facts</i>	July 31, 2012 August 14, 2012 September 25, 2012	NOI
<i>Inland Empire Community Newspapers</i>	September 25, 2012	NOI

**Agency Mailings**

To support SANBAG and FTA’s outreach and scoping requirements, an agency mailing list was developed to ensure early notification is provided to applicable federal, state, and local agencies who would not otherwise receive formal notification from the State Clearinghouse. This list was used to distribute meeting and milestones notices such as the release of the NOP, NOI, scoping meetings, and release of the Draft EIS/EIR. Based on the combined outreach efforts through the NOP and NOI comment periods, the outreach team developed a targeted list of approximately 200 agency/key stakeholder contacts to receive a mailing of the Draft EIS/EIR to inform them of its availability along with an opportunity to provide comments during the public review period.

**City Council Notification**

Scoping meeting information was announced at the San Bernardino city council meeting on April 16, 2012. Additionally, the outreach team requested that the City of Redlands announce scoping meeting information at the April 17, 2012 City Council meeting.

**Mailing to Adjacent Properties**

In addition to the agency mailing list, a broader mailing list was developed to include all property owners and mailing addresses for all parcels adjacent to the nine-mile stretch of the Study Area. This will be used to distribute meeting and milestones notices such as the release of the NOP, NOI, scoping meetings, release of the Draft EIS/EIR and associated public hearings. Mailing addresses were obtained from the City of San Bernardino Economic Development Agency. To date, approximately 400 NOPs were mailed out to property owners on April 11 and 12, 2012. A similar number of NOIs were mailed out on July 31, 2012 in conjunction with the publishing of the NOI in the Federal Register.

**Informational Flier Distribution**

The outreach team strategically distributed approximately 200 informational fliers in the cities of San Bernardino and Redlands where planned platform improvements would be located.

**Database Notification**

The database is used to distribute meeting and milestones notices such as the release of the NOP, NOI, scoping meetings, release of the Draft EIS/EIR and associated public hearings. To date, notification of the NOP and scoping meeting information was sent to approximately 900 contacts in the project database. The first round of notification emails were sent on

April 18, 2012, followed by reminder emails on April 23, 2012 and May 1, 2012. A second round of emails were sent on September 18, 2012 and followed by reminder emails on September 25, 2012 to notify database contacts about the NOI and scoping meetings. The distribution list is provided in Appendix A.

### **Other Channels of Communication Used to Notify the Public**

In addition to the NOP filed with the State Clearinghouse and the NOI published in the Federal Register, the following are other activities implemented to inform the public of the Project:

- The NOP was made available on the SANBAG website on April 10, 2012 throughout the 30-day review period.
- The notification of scoping meetings was sent to SANBAG board of directors and announced at the SANBAG board meeting.
- The notification of the scoping meeting at ESRI was sent to all ESRI employees via email on behalf of the company encouraging attendance.
- The Downtown San Bernardino Constant Contact database notification was sent to approximately 400 local business leaders, residents, elected officials, and community-based organizations.
- A pre-meeting media outreach was conducted to get information covered in local newspapers, which resulted in coverage in the April 17, 2012 edition of the *Redlands Daily Facts*.
- The PowerPoint presentation used at scoping meetings for the NOP and NOI was made available to the public on the SANBAG website on April 25, 2012 and September 26, 2012, respectively – providing people unable to attend the meeting an opportunity to see the information presented.

### **Media Outreach**

Notice of milestone meetings and events will be provided to local and regional media. To date, proactive and targeted media outreach resulted in the following coverage of the meetings and the Project.

- April 17, 2012 – The San Bernardino Sun and Redlands Daily Facts
  - Description: Pre-notification of meetings at ESRI on April 24 and in San Bernardino on May 2, 2012.
- April 25, 2012 – The San Bernardino Sun and Redlands Daily Facts
  - Description: Recap of meeting held at ESRI.
- April 26, 2012 – Metro's Los Angeles Transportation Headlines
  - Description: Link to Redlands Daily Facts article on coverage of April 24 meeting.
- May 6, 2012 – Redlands-Loma Linda Patch
  - Description: Recap of the meeting held in San Bernardino.



## **6.7 ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MINORITY, LOW-INCOME, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

SANBAG made significant efforts to ensure minority, low-income, and disabled persons were included in all outreach efforts. This has included sensitivity to multiple distribution channels and language needs, but also the selection of transit accessible venues in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Display advertisements were advertised in Spanish and translations were provided at the scoping meetings. Both a Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter were in attendance at each of the meetings.