Northern Branch Corridor Public Scoping Meeting

Wednesday, October 24, 2007
Agenda

- Introductions
- Project History
- Project Status
- EIS Process
- Other Issues
Introductions
Project History
Project History

- West Shore Study
  - Proposed Regional Transit Network Serving Bergen & Rockland Counties Through 3 Corridors
    - West Shore: Commuter Rail Sports Complex
    - Northern Branch: Light Rail
    - Passaic Bergen: Light Rail
Project History

- Northern Branch HBLR Extension Alternative
  - Recommended through Alternatives Analysis
  - Assumed HBLR extended to Vince Lombardi P&R
  - Operate from Tenafly to 83rd Street, North Bergen
  - Physical separation between freight & LRT
  - Electrically Propelled
  - Overhead Catenary
Project History

- Changes that led to a fresh look of the project
  - THE Tunnel
  - TriCounty Rail Plan
  - New Rail Passenger Technology (DMU)
Project History

- Northern Branch DMU Alternative
  - THE Tunnel
  - TriCounty Rail Plan
  - Operate from Tenafly to North Bergen
  - Connections to HBLR Via New Transfer Station in North Bergen
  - FRA-Compliant Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) Railcar
    - Can Be Run on Same Tracks, at the Same Time with Freight Service
Project Status
New NOI and Scoping

- Reflect the analysis of two alternative modes of transit
Project Status

- Proposed Alternatives
  - No Action
  - HBLR Extension Alternatives
    Temporal Separation
      - Tenafly North terminus
      - Englewood Route 4 terminus
  - DMU Alternatives
    - Tenafly North terminus
    - Englewood Route 4 terminus
Project Status

Stations to be Studied

- North Bergen Junction
- 91st Street
- Ridgefield
- Palisades Park
- Leonia
- Englewood Route 4
- Englewood Town Center
- Englewood Hospital
- Tenafly Town Center
- Tenafly North
Other Planning Considerations

- THE Tunnel Connection
- Hudson-Bergen Light Rail connection to the Meadowlands (69th Street Station)
El S Process
EIS Process

- NOI & Scoping Procedures
  - Scoping Meeting
  - Draft and Final Scoping Document

- Draft EIS

- Agency/Public Review & Comment
  - DEIS Public Hearing

- Final EIS
  - Address comments on DEIS
  - Agency/Public Review & Comment

- Record of Decision

- Agency Action
Environmental Analysis

- Transportation
  - Air Quality
  - Noise & Vibration
  - Traffic, Parking, Transit, Pedestrians & Freight Rail
  - Energy & Potential for Conservation
  - Electric & Magnetic Fields
  - Safety & Security
Environmental Analysis

- Natural Environment
  - Water Quality
  - Wetlands
  - Flooding
  - Navigable Waterways & Coastal Zones
  - Ecologically Sensitive Areas
  - Endangered Species
  - Hazardous Waste
Environmental Analysis

- Built Environment
  - Land Acquisition & Displacement
  - Land Use, Zoning & Economic Development
  - Consistency with Local Plans
  - Historic Properties & Resources
  - Parkland
  - Archaeology
  - Aesthetics
  - Community Disruption
Environmental Justice
- Avoid disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority & low-income populations.

Construction Impacts
- Identify and minimize temporary impacts associated with construction activities.

Cumulative Effects and Indirect Impacts
- Determine cumulative effects of this action with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable major actions.
Other Issues
Other Issues

- Hours of passenger service
- Nighttime freight operations
- Freight customers
- Passenger rail storage facilities
- Future conversion to commuter rail
For More Information

Visit the project website at:

http://northernbranchcorridor.com

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Public Comment Session
Northern Branch Corridor
Public Scoping Meeting

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