



Scoping Meeting and Open House

October 12, 13 and 17, 2016



Welcome

Overview Agenda

- 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm: Welcome and Sign In
- 5:45 pm – 6:00 pm: Presentation
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm: Open House

Presentation Agenda

- Project Overview
- Project Purpose and Need
- Project History
- Project Process
- Agency Coordination
- Project Timeline
- Project Comments

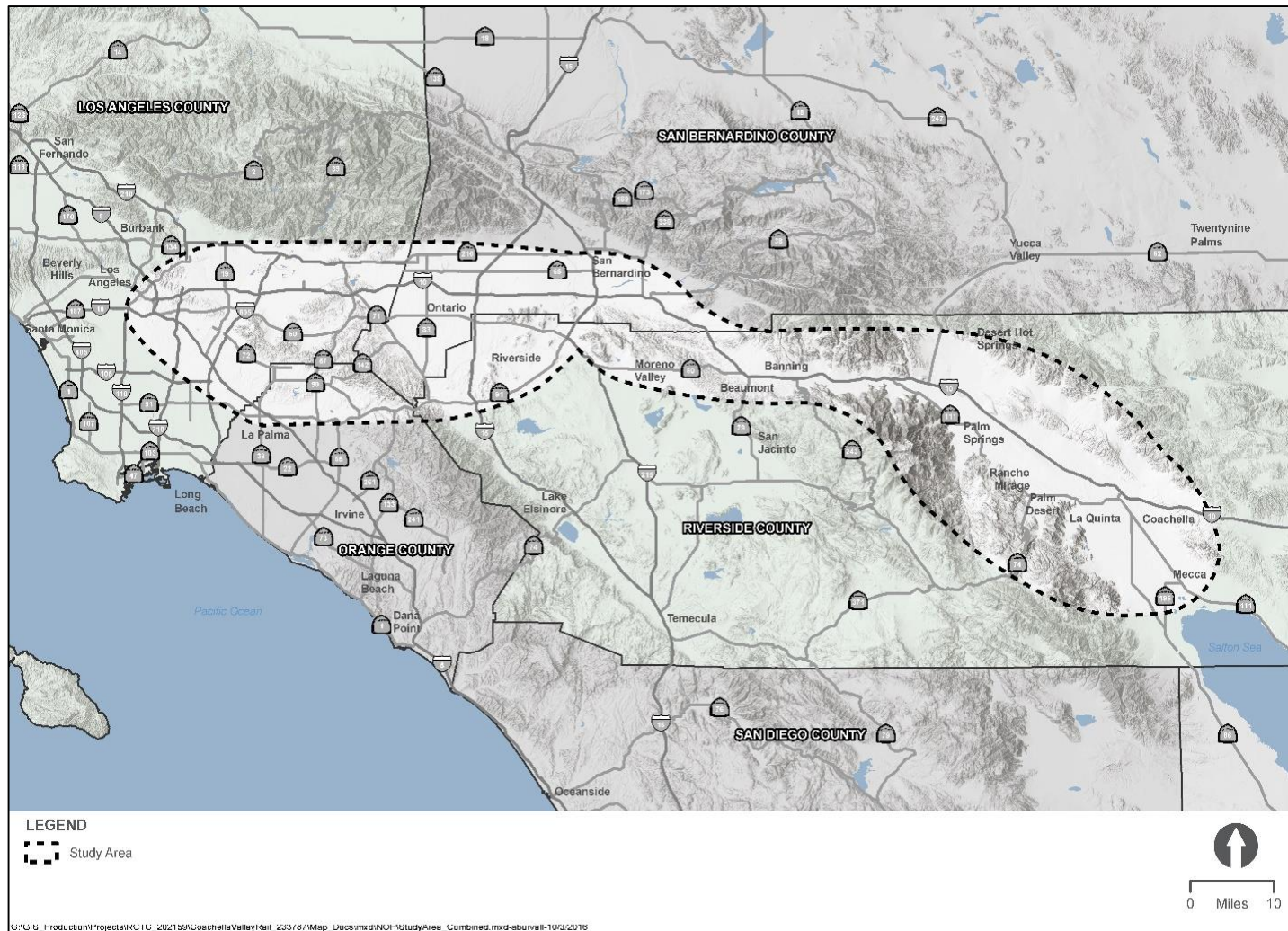
Project Overview

What is the Coachella Valley-San Gorgonio Pass Rail Corridor Service Project ?

- The Federal Railroad Administration, the California Department of Transportation, and the Riverside County Transportation Commission are studying options for providing intercity passenger rail service between the cities of Los Angeles and Indio (the Corridor)
- The Corridor service would extend from an eastern terminus in Indio to the western terminus at Los Angeles Union Station

Project Overview – Study Area

Where is the Project Study Area?



Project Purpose

What is the purpose of providing intercity rail service in the Coachella Valley – San Geronio Pass Rail Corridor Project?

The overall purpose of the Project is to provide a safe, reliable, and convenient intercity passenger rail service that would meet the future mobility needs of residents, businesses, and visitors within the Corridor.

Project Purpose – Service Objectives

What objectives would the Coachella Valley – San Geronimo Pass Rail Corridor Service achieve?

- More convenient, faster, and more frequent service than existing transit services
- An alternative to driving that offers reliable schedules
- An affordable transportation service
- Serve multiple trip purposes
- Improve regional travel opportunities for transit-dependent people
- Serve expected growth in the Corridor
- Not preclude a possible future extension to Phoenix

Project Need

Why do we need Coachella Valley – San Geronio Pass Rail Corridor Service Project?

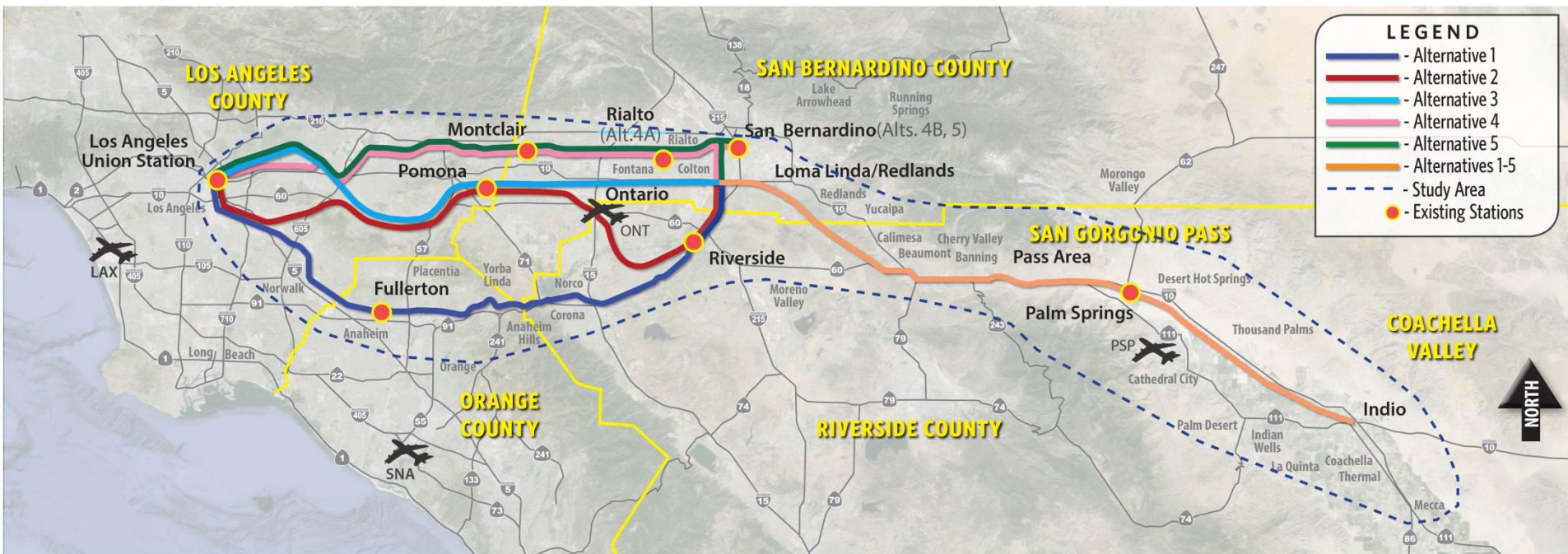
- Constrained travel options
- Significant highway congestion
- Constrained rail system capacity
- Increase travel capacity without impacting air quality and natural resources

Project History

- 1991: RCTC completed the first in a series of studies evaluating the operation of one or two daily intercity rail round trips between Los Angeles and Indio
- 1991 to 2013: RCTC completed additional feasibility studies on the Coachella Valley – San Gorgonio Pass Rail Corridor Service
- July 2016: RCTC, FRA, and Caltrans completed the Coachella Valley – San Gorgonio Pass Rail Corridor Service Study Alternatives Analysis Report that evaluated a reasonable range of alternatives for new intercity rail service

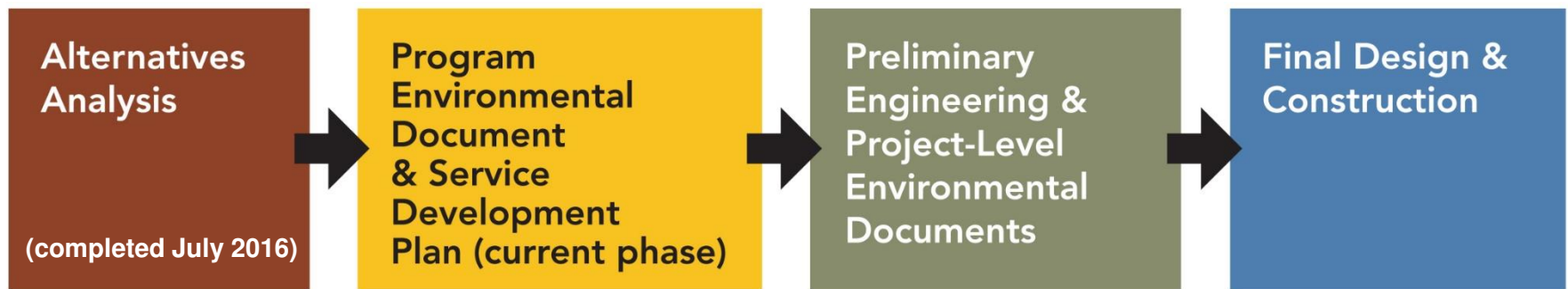
Project History

The 2016 Alternatives Analysis Report studied multiple rail route alignments



Project Process

Where we are in the process



- With completion of the Alternative Analysis Report, the next steps of the process include the preparation of a Service Development Plan and a joint Program Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR)

Project Process

What will be prepared?

- Service Development Plan (SDP)
 - Analysis of service levels, infrastructure needs, route modeling, station catchment areas, and connectivity
 - ✓ Railroad design and construction
 - ✓ Trainset equipment
 - ✓ Ridership and revenue forecast
 - ✓ Financial plan and economic impact
 - ✓ Implementation and phasing
 - SDP elements analyzed in the Program EIS/EIR

Project Process

What will be prepared?

- Joint Program EIS/EIR
 - Program EIS/EIR will utilize a tiered National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process
 - Addresses likely environmental effects associated with the type of rail service being proposed in the corridor
 - Provides a basis for subsequent phases or tiered (e.g. Project-level NEPA/CEQA) environmental documents

Project Process

What will be studied?

The joint Program EIS/EIR will evaluate topics including:

- Agricultural resources
- Air quality and global climate change
- Biological and wetland resources
- Cultural and historic resources
- Economic and fiscal impacts
- Energy
- Environmental justice
- Floodplains
- Hydrology/water quality
- Geology, soils and seismicity
- Hazardous materials
- Land use, planning, and communities
- Noise and vibration
- Parklands, community services and other public facilities
- Safety and security
- Section 4(f) and 6 (f) resources
- Transportation
- Visual quality/aesthetics

Agency Coordination

Which agencies are involved?

- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)
- Potential Project Partners may include but are not limited to:
 - Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)
 - Amtrak
 - Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink)
 - Union Pacific Railroad
 - BNSF Railway



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

Program EIS/EIR Timeline

What is next?

Notice of Intent/Notice
of Preparation
Comment Period and
Scoping Meetings

Fall 2016

Preparation of
Technical Studies and
Draft Program EIS/EIR

Winter 2016 to Summer
2018

Draft Program EIS/EIR
Comment Period

Fall 2018

Final Program EIS/EIR
and Record of Decision

Summer 2019

Public Involvement

Public Scoping

What is the purpose of scoping?

- Obtain public and agency comments to help:
 - Refine the Purpose and Need for the Project
 - Provide input on alignments or alternatives that should be considered in the Program EIS/EIR
 - Identify potential environmental effects of the Project to be addressed in the Program EIS/EIR

How To Submit Comments

CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP)

Public Comment Period: October 6, 2016 to November 10, 2016

Please submit NOP public comments via the following methods:

Email: Mr. Robert Yates
Multimodal Services Director
Riverside County Transportation Commission
CoachellaValleyRail@ArellanoAssociates.com

Mail: Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)
P.O. Box 12008
Riverside, California, 92501

Comments should include “Coachella Valley – San Gorgonio Pass Rail Corridor Service Project – NOP Scoping Comments” in the subject line

How To Submit Comments

NEPA Notice of Intent (NOI)

Public Comment Period: October 7, 2016 to November 10, 2016

Please submit NOI public comments via the following methods:

Email: Stephanie Perez
Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Program Delivery, Federal Railroad Administration
stephanie.perez@dot.gov

Mail: Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Program Delivery
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. (Mail Stop 20)
Washington, DC 20590

Comments should include “Coachella Valley – San Gorgonio Pass Rail Corridor Service Project – NOI Scoping Comments” in the subject line

Stay Involved

Coachella Valley – San Geronio Pass Rail Corridor Study Contact Information:

- **Email: CoachellaValleyRail@ArellanoAssociates.com**
- **RCTC Website: www.CVRailProject.Info**
- **Facebook: facebook.com/CVRailProject**
- **FRA Website: fra.dot.gov**