

June 2014

High Desert Corridor

Joint Powers Authority

- Will Lamborn, Metro Interim Project Manager
- Karl Price, Caltrans Senior Environmental Planner
- Danielle Valentino, Metro Community Relations Manager

Agenda

- High Desert Corridor Overview
- HDC Alternatives/Variations
- Environmental Study/Process
- Public Outreach
- Next Steps



HDC Project Partner Agencies

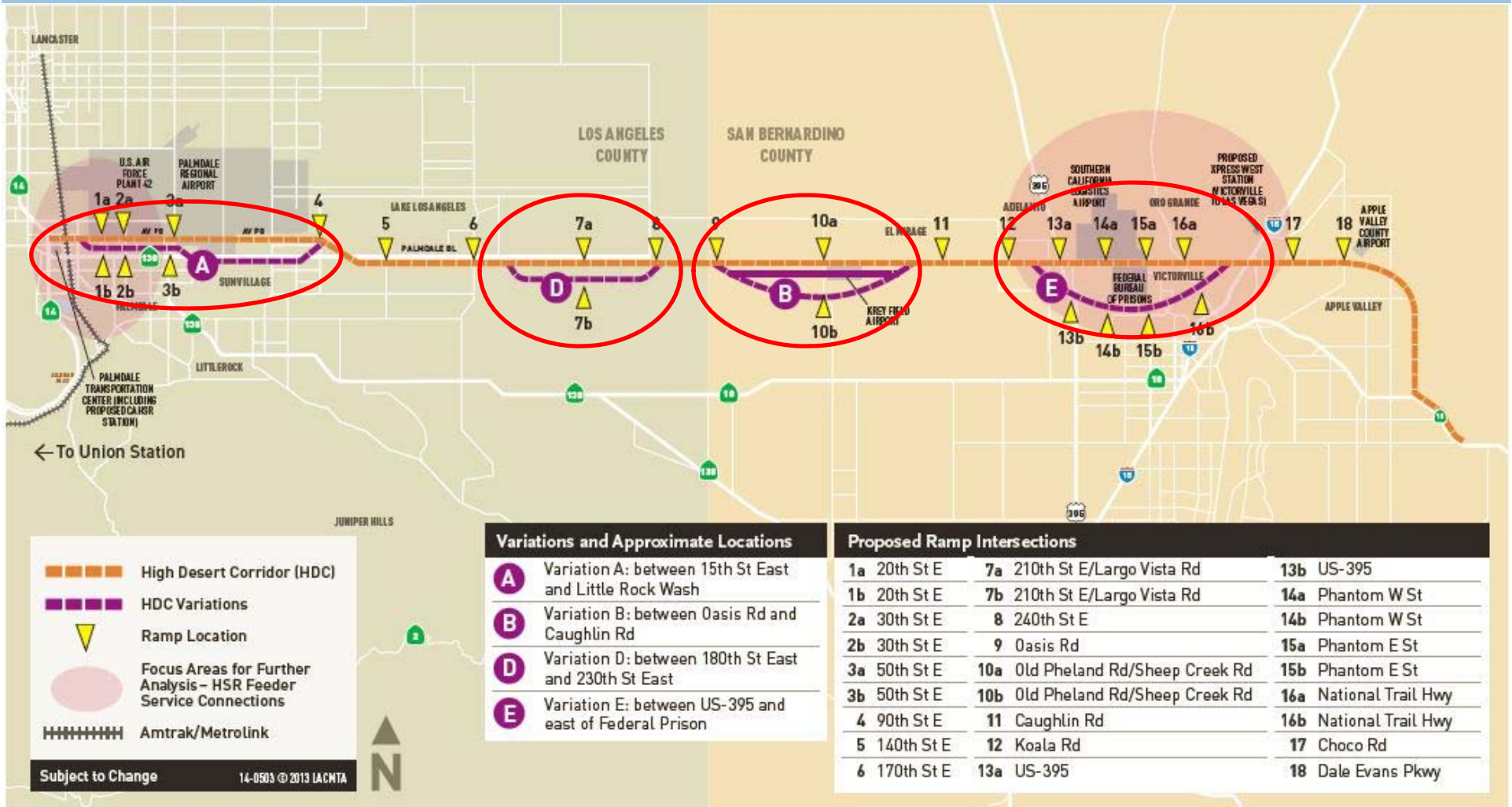
- Metro
- Caltrans
- HDC Joint Powers Authority (JPA)
- SANBAG
- SCAG
- Victorville
- Adelanto
- Lancaster
- Palmdale
- Town of Apple Valley
- Los Angeles County
- San Bernardino County



HDC Purpose and Need

- Address recent and future population growth
- Increase capacity of east-west transportation facilities
- Improve travel safety and reliability
- Improve the regional goods movement network
- Provide improved access and connectivity to regional transportation facilities, including airports and the existing and future passenger rail systems
- Contribute to state greenhouse gas reduction goals

HDC Corridor and Variations



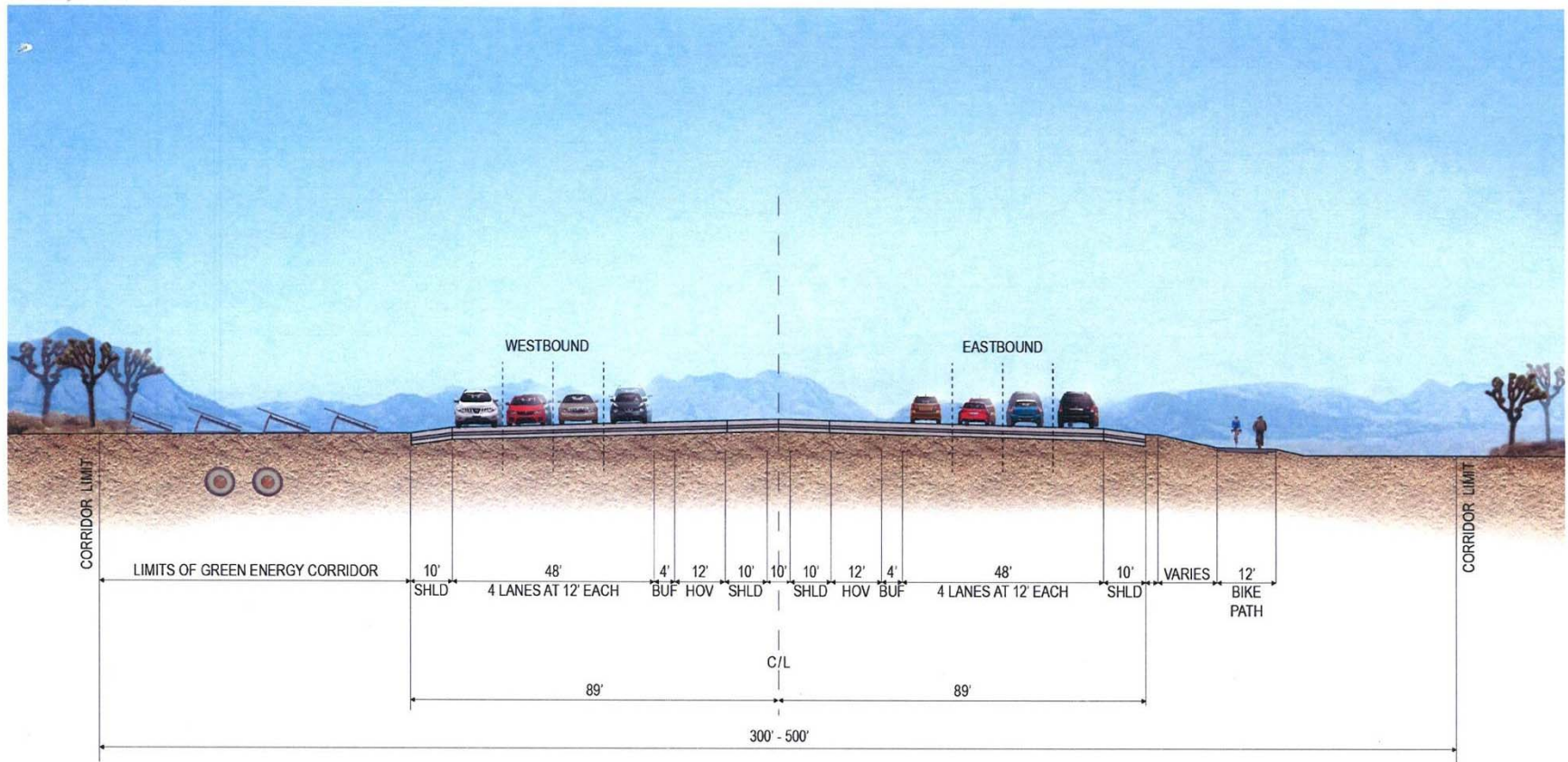
Proposed Project Alternatives

- **Freeway/Expressway Alternative (Avenue P-8, I-15 and SR-18)**
- **Freeway/Tollway Alternative (Avenue P-8, I-15 and SR-18)**
- **Freeway/Expressway Alternative with High Speed Rail Feeder Service**
- **Freeway/Tollway Alternative with High Speed Rail Feeder Service**
- **No Build Alternative**
- **Transportation Systems Management (TSM)***
- **Hybrid Corridor Alternative***

*Based on initial technical analysis, the TSM & Hybrid Alternative have been identified as not adequately meeting the Purpose and Need for the HDC Project and will not be considered for further evaluation as of Spring/Summer 2014, respectively.

Proposed Freeway/Expressway Alternative

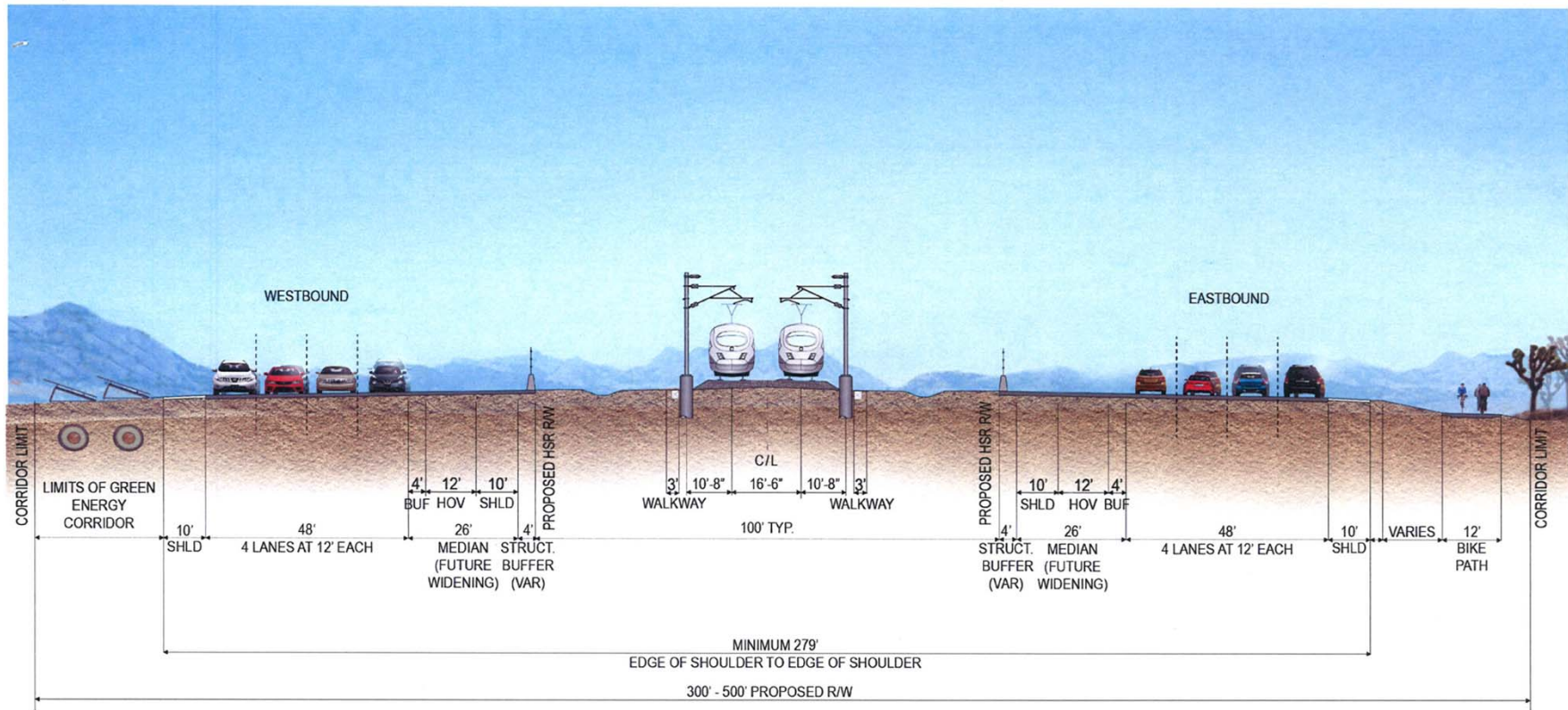
Cross-Section



DRAFT

HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR
(FUTURE ULTIMATE FREEWAY / EXPRESSWAY ALTERNATIVES)
TYPICAL SECTION

Proposed Freeway/Expressway with Rail Alternative Cross-Section



DRAFT

HIGH DESERT CORRIDOR
(FUTURE ULTIMATE FREEWAY/ HIGH SPEED RAIL ALTERNATIVE)
TYPICAL SECTION

EIS/EIR Process

Preliminary Engineering



Public Involvement

HDC Cooperating Agencies

- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)



HDC Participating Agencies

County and Local Agencies:

- Los Angeles Co. – Dept. of Regional Planning
- Los Angeles Co. – Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- City of Palmdale – Planning Division
- Los Angeles World Airports – Airports and Facilities Planning Division
- City of Los Angeles - Dept. of Water and Power
- San Bernardino Co. – Dept. of Public Works
- San Bernardino Associated Governments
- City of Hesperia
- City of Victorville
- Town of Apple Valley
- Palmdale School District

State and Regional Agencies:

- CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- CA Public Utilities Commission
- CA Regional Water Quality Control Board – Region 6
- CA Regional Water Quality Control Board – Region 4
- CA Highway Patrol
- Southern CA Association of Governments



Highlights of Key Findings: Traffic

Traffic Volumes

- No Build 2040: More than 130,000 vehicles/day (vpd) cross LA/SB county line within study area
- Build 2040: More than 170,000 vpd cross LA/SB county line within study area
- Build 2040: More than 110,000 vpd use High Desert Corridor
- Tolling scenario: Approx. 78,000 vpd use High Desert Corridor

Highlights of Key Findings: Traffic (cont.)

Travel Times

- 2040 No Build travel time between Lancaster and Apple Valley:
 - Approx. 125 minutes peak, 91 minutes off-peak
- 2040 Build travel time between Lancaster and Apple Valley:
 - Approx. 75 minutes peak, 64 minutes off-peak

Truck Volumes

- Truck volumes using HDC are approx. 10% in Build and Tolling scenarios (2040)

Highlights of Key Findings: Growth

- The HDC will likely shift future development toward new interchanges in Palmdale, Adelanto and Victorville
- The HSR alternatives will likely increase density of development near the rail stations in Palmdale and Victorville
- The HDC by itself is not expected to attract new growth beyond that predicted by SCAG Projections.

Highlights of Key Findings: Noise

Contributors:

- Highway – dominant contributor
- Rail – minor contributor

Noise abatement is proposed if:

- Predicted noise levels at sensitive receptors are 66 dBA or higher, or
- Predicted noise levels exceed existing levels by 12 dBA

13 Proposed soundwalls:

- 9 – Palmdale
 - (6 along SR-14, 3 along the HDC)
- 3 - Lake Los Angeles
- 1 - Apple Valley

Highlights of Key Findings: Visual

Visual impacts characterized as “moderate”

- Additional lighting/brightness
 - Comply with “Dark Sky” guidelines
- Soundwall and structure obstruction in some areas
 - Softened with vegetation and/or aesthetic treatments

Overall visual effect: increased urban character

Highlights of Key Findings: Biological

Studies conducted showed several sensitive resources. Examples include:

- Sensitive plant communities
- Desert tortoise
- Southwestern willow flycatcher critical habitat
- Jurisdictional waters and wetlands
- Wildlife corridors

Community Involvement

Outreach Program Summary

- 18 Public Meetings (including 6 public meetings broadcasted live and 2 webinars)
- 30 Elected and City Staff Meetings
- 7 Corridor Partner Agency Briefings
- 13 Events
- 5 Institutional Stakeholder Briefings (School Districts, NCTC, AVBOT)
- 6 Interest Group Briefings (WTS, Industry Groups)
- 8 Regulatory Agency Briefings (JPA, SCAG, Caltrans)
- 44 Stakeholder Meetings
- 2 Media briefings
- 1,500 Attendees/Participants
- 2,200+ project database contacts
- 34 Ustream Followers
- 34 Eblasts to the project database



HDC Next Steps

- HDC Variation Workshops
 - Summer 2014
- Release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR)
 - Late Summer 2014
- Public Hearings
 - Fall 2014
- Final EIS/EIR
 - Spring 2015



How to Stay Involved

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🌐 metro.net/hdc

🌐 [Caltrans: dot.ca.gov/disto7/travel/projects/138hdc](http://Caltrans.dot.ca.gov/disto7/travel/projects/138hdc)

🐦 [@metrohdc](https://twitter.com/metrohdc)

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Check out the HDC interactive map at interactive.metro.net/projects/high-desert-corridor

