AVALON AND FRIES STREET SEGMENTS CLOSURE PROJECT

Los Angeles Harbor Department
April 22, 2014
PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

• Provide information about the proposed segment closures of Avalon Boulevard and Fries Avenue between Water Street and “A” Street (Proposed Project) and other related projects;
• Describe the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and the findings on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND);
• Obtain public comments on the IS/MND.
PROJECT LOCATION
PROPOSED PROJECT ELEMENTS
RELATED PROJECT:
SOUTH WILMINGTON GRADE SEPARATION
PROPOSED PROJECT
PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

• Minimize rail traffic delays by permanently closing the at-grade crossings on segments of Avalon Boulevard and Fries Avenue to enable improved rail operations for the West Basin area rail customers.
• Maintain sufficient access and circulation (via private driveways or other means) to adjacent parcels with sufficient crossing protection.
• Provide safe and permanent closures using cul-de-sacs, fencing along the rail tracks, and signage to slow/re-direct traffic.
• Closure would only occur after completion of the South Wilmington Grade Separation Project to ensure adequate vehicular and pedestrian access to the Wilmington Waterfront.
• The project would not interfere with approved future plans for the Wilmington Waterfront Development.
PROJECT BENEFITS

• Safety:
  – Pedestrians
  – Vehicles

• Traffic:
  – Eliminate lengthy train blockages at existing roadways
  – Minimize rail traffic delays
  – Compliance with California Public Utilities General Order 135 rule

• Air Quality:
  – Eliminating lengthy blockages and minimizing rail traffic delays reduces air emissions from idling

• Noise:
  – Eliminates train horn sounding at crossings
CEQA PROCESS

• An Initial Study (IS) / Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project.

• The IS/MND was released for public review from April 4 – June 4, 2014.

• Public Meeting – April 22, 2014

• Final IS/MND will be prepared that includes responses to comments

• BHC Hearing and Adoption – Anticipated in August 2014
FINDINGS OF THE IS/MND

No Impacts
- Population
- Housing
- Recreation
- Mineral Resources

Less than Significant After Mitigation
- Cultural Resources
  - CR-1
  - CR-2

Less Than Significant
- Air Quality
- Aesthetics
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise
- Public Service
- Transportation & Traffic
- Biological Resources
- Geology & Soils
- Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning
AVAILABILITY OF THE IS/MND

Local Libraries

• San Pedro City Library
• Wilmington City Library

Website

• Port website at http://www.portoflosangeles.org

POLA office

Environmental Management Division
Port of Los Angeles
222 W. 6th Street, Suite # 1080
San Pedro, CA 90731
PUBLIC COMMENTS

EMAIL

• Email your comments to ceqacommments@portla.org. Include a valid mailing address in the email and “Avalon & Fries Street Closure IS/MND” in the subject line.

MAIL

Submit comment card or letter by mail to the following address:

Christopher Cannon
Director of Environmental Management
Port of Los Angeles
425 S. Palos Verdes St., San Pedro, CA 90731

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE IS/MND WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH JUNE 4th, 2014.
PUBLIC MEETING FORMAT

• Written comments on Draft IS/MND accepted via comment card
• Oral comments on Draft IS/MND limited to 3 minutes each (please fill out and submit a speaker card)
• All public comments will be considered and included in the Final IS/MND
• All correspondences will be recorded
• Spanish translation is available.