



MID-COAST CORRIDOR
TRANSIT PROJECT

Chapter 7 Review and Selection of Alternatives for Scoping

7.0 REVIEW AND SELECTION OF ALTERNATIVES FOR SCOPING

This chapter describes the results of the process used to select the set of alternatives to be carried forward into California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping. Chapter 2.0 of this report describes the technical process used to evaluate and select alternatives for scoping.

The *Draft Comparative Evaluation of Alternatives Report* was distributed on March 12, 2010. A briefing summarizing the report was provided to the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project Working Group (PWG) in March 2010. The report was presented to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Transportation Committee and the SANDAG Board of Directors (Board) in March 2010 as an information item. Issues addressed included the potential environmental and transportation impacts and benefits, and assessments of cost effectiveness and financial feasibility. As described in this chapter, after considering input from the public, various interested groups, and stakeholders, the SANDAG Board voted in April 2010 to approve advancing three light rail transit (LRT) alternatives and their alignment variations into CEQA scoping.

7.1 Project Working Group

The PWG was presented with a summary of the *Draft Comparative Evaluation of Alternatives Report* and its findings on March 17, 2010. Alternatives recommended to be carried forward into scoping also were presented to the group. At the request of the PWG, an Information Session was held on March 29, 2010 with PWG members, SANDAG staff, and the technical team to provide an additional opportunity to discuss the report and address questions.

On April 7, 2010, the PWG met to discuss the findings of the *Draft Comparative Evaluation of Alternatives Report* and recommend to the SANDAG Transportation Committee alternatives for scoping. The PWG approved a motion for the following recommendations: (1) eliminate LRT Alternative 3 from scoping and advance LRT Alternatives 1 and 6 to scoping; (2) approve LRT Alternative 1 as the PWG's preferred alternative; and (3) eliminate the Transportation System Management (TSM) Alternative, LRT Alternatives 2 and 7, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Alternatives 1-4, and the Commuter Rail Alternative from further study.

7.2 SANDAG Transportation Committee

SANDAG staff made an informational presentation to the SANDAG Transportation Committee on March 19, 2010. The presentation included a summary of the *Draft Comparative Evaluation of Alternatives Report*, a description of the conceptual alternatives considered, and the recommended alternatives for CEQA scoping. The SANDAG Transportation Committee also received public comment, including comments from representatives of Friends of Rose Canyon.

At the April 16, 2010 SANDAG Transportation Committee meeting, the committee reviewed the recommendation of the PWG, received public comment, including comments from representatives of Friends of Rose Canyon, and approved a recommendation to the SANDAG Board to approve LRT Alternatives 1 (combines LRT



Alternatives 1, 4, and 5), 3, and 6 be carried forward for consideration at scoping for the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR).

7.3 SANDAG Board

The SANDAG Board reviewed the findings of the *Draft Comparative Evaluation of Alternatives Report* at its March 26, 2010 meeting. SANDAG staff also presented a schedule for the scoping meetings and completion of the CEQA scoping process. The SANDAG Board also received public comment, including comments from representatives of Friends of Rose Canyon, Sierra Club San Diego, and Move San Diego.

At the April 23, 2010 SANDAG Board meeting, the SANDAG Board reviewed the PWG and SANDAG Transportation Committee recommendations. The board also received public comment, including comments from representatives of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), Friends of Rose Canyon, and Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center. The SANDAG Board approved advancing LRT Alternatives 1 (combines LRT Alternatives 1, 4, and 5), 3, and 6 forward for consideration at scoping for the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project Draft SEIS/SEIR.