



Meeting

1 message

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To: Executive Committee <exec@soronc.org>

Thu, Apr 16, 2026 at 4:07 PM

Hello,

I cannot attend today's meeting because I have a prior family commitment: I need to take my son to an orientation in Santa Monica. I apologize for my absence and appreciate your understanding.

Following questions raised at last month's meeting, I am providing an update on two topics of interest to the Council: the LAPD West Los Angeles Division drone pilot program and the Los Angeles Metro Sepulveda Transit Corridor (Sepulveda Line) project.

1. LAPD West LA Division Drone Pilot Program

The Los Angeles Police Department's "Drone as First Responder" (DFR) pilot program in the West Los Angeles Division deploys drones to selected emergency calls to provide officers with real-time aerial video before arrival on scene.

The program intends to improve situational awareness, enhance officer and public safety, and support faster, more informed emergency response. Currently, the drones are used primarily for observation, incident assessment, and live video transmission to responding officers and command staff.

The program appears focused on surveillance and information gathering rather than direct interaction.

We will continue to monitor developments and share updates as additional operational details become available.

2. Los Angeles Metro Sepulveda Transit Corridor (Sepulveda Line)

The Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project is a major planned transit investment designed to connect the San Fernando Valley with the Westside and ultimately Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). It is currently one of the largest transportation infrastructure projects under development in Los Angeles County.

Project Status (as of April 2026)

- In January 2026, the Metro Board of Directors selected **Modified Alternative 5 (fully underground heavy rail subway)** as the Locally Preferred Alternative.
- The project is currently in the **environmental review and final engineering phase**.
- Following certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the project will be eligible to proceed into construction.
- Funding includes approximately **\$10 billion in Measure M local funds**, with additional state and federal funding still being pursued to meet the estimated **\$20–25 billion total project cost**.

Construction Timeline

- **Late 2026–2027:** Anticipated start of major construction for Phase 1, pending environmental clearance and final design completion.
- **2028 Olympics period:** While the rail line will not yet be operational, Metro is planning interim mobility improvements, including enhanced express bus service and corridor improvements along the I-405 to support increased travel demand.

Project Overview

- The project consists of approximately **13 miles of fully underground heavy rail subway** between the San Fernando Valley and the Westside.

- Projected travel time is **under 20 minutes**, significantly reducing current travel times of 60–90 minutes along the I-405 corridor.
- Public input strongly favored a subway option over alternatives, primarily due to speed, reliability, and transfer connections.

Planned Phase 1 Stations

- Van Nuys Metrolink
- Sherman Way
- G Line / Sepulveda
- Ventura Boulevard (Sherman Oaks)
- UCLA (Gateway Plaza)
- Wilshire / Westwood (D Line connection)
- Santa Monica Boulevard
- Expo / Sepulveda (E Line connection)

Future Expansion

A future Phase 2 is planned to extend the line south to the **LAX/Metro Transit Center**, creating a direct rail connection between LAX, the Westside, and the San Fernando Valley.

I will continue to monitor both items and provide further updates as more information becomes available.

If anything additional comes up during tonight's meeting, please let me know and I will follow up accordingly.

Thank you,
Cairo



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