



**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

*A Joint Powers Authority*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

Monday, November 17, 2025 — 12:30pm  
City of Burbank, Community Services  
CSB Room 104  
150 N 3rd St, Burbank, CA 91502

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair: Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando  
Vice-Chair: Councilmember Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles  
Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles  
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi, City of Burbank  
Councilmember Elen Asatryan, City of Glendale  
Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa Clarita  
Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles  
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles  
Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Council 6th District, City of Los Angeles  
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles  
Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles

**STAFF**

SFVCOG Fiscal Agent: Rachele Anema, County of Los Angeles  
SFVCOG Secretary: Los Angeles County Commission's Office  
John Bwarie, Executive Director, San Fernando Valley COG  
Elizabeth Pennington & Ayano Wolff, Deputy County Counsels, County of Los Angeles

## OPEN SESSION

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. ROLL CALL

### 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

### 5. MINUTES

October 6, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ([PAGE 4](#))

Recommended Action: *Approve minutes.*

Public Comment/Correspondence

### 6. SEPULVEDA TRANSIT CORRIDOR ([PAGE 14](#))

Recommended Action: *The Board supports Alternatives 5 and/or 6, as presented in Metro's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project, with an openness to consider additional alignment and grading options, different technologies (the automated version of the Alternative 6 alignment), and value engineering in order to deliver a heavy-rail alternative, mitigate housing impacts, property acquisitions, utility conflicts, and projects costs. Any alternative must have a direct connection, within the paid area, between the G Line and the Sepulveda Transit Corridor.*

Public Comment/Correspondence

### 7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

### 8. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 9. NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting: January 12, 2026 in Glendale at 10:00am

### 10. ADJOURNMENT

## Notices:

Meetings of the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments are recorded. Minutes of each meeting are available at <http://sfvcog.org/> after the Board approves them. A person with a disability may contact the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments before the scheduled meeting to request receipt of an agenda in an alternative format or to request disability-related accommodations, in order to participate in the public meeting, requests will be met to the extent feasible. Email [info@sfvcog.org](mailto:info@sfvcog.org) for accommodation. The entire agenda package and any meeting related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda package, unless exempt from disclosure pursuant to California Law, are also available.



**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

*A Joint Powers Authority*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

Monday, October 6, 2025 — 10:00 a.m.

Old Town Newhall Library

24500 Main St, Santa Clarita, CA 91321

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair: Mayor Mary Mendoza, City of San Fernando

Vice-Chair: Councilmember Nithya Raman, 4th District, City of Los Angeles

Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th Supervisorial District, County of Los Angeles

Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi, City of Burbank

Councilmember Elen Asatryan, City of Glendale

Councilmember Marsha McLean, City of Santa

Clarita

Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Council 6th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, City of Los Angeles

Councilmember John Lee, 12th District, City of Los Angeles

**STAFF**

SFVCOG Fiscal Agent: Rachelle Anema, County of Los Angeles

SFVCOG Secretary: Los Angeles County Commission's Office

John Bwarie, Executive Director, San Fernando Valley COG

Elizabeth Pennington & Ayano Wolff, Deputy County Counsels, County of Los

Angeles Andrew Said, City Attorney, City of Los Angeles



**OPEN SESSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was conducted by staff.

**QUORUM ESTABLISHED (11 Members):**

**Present 10:** Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza  
Mashaël Majid for Vice-Chair Councilmember Nithya Raman  
Justin Orenstein for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath  
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez  
Daniel Lopez for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian  
Jeff Jacobberger for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield  
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee  
Councilmember Marsha McLean  
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi  
John Takhtalian Councilmember Elen Asatryan

**Absent 2:** Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger  
Councilmember Imelda Padilla

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Alternate Myrka Martinez (for Councilmember John Lee) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Stephano Padilla, South Coast Air Quality Management District, and Brian Gavidia, LA Metro made public comments.



**5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

*Updates, remarks and recommendations from the Executive Director*

- 1) In collaboration with Homeless Initiative, funding of \$100,000.00 homeless services for community college students is expected to be finalized by the end of October 2025.
- 2) Ad-Hoc meetings have taken place in preparation for the 2028 Olympics.
- 3) In collaboration with LA County Public Works, the Transportation Committee held discussions about potential projects to fill in critical gaps.
- 4) The Transportation Committee provided a letter in support for the Olive Avenue Bridge project.

**6. MINUTES**

July 14, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes ([PAGE 4](#))

Recommended Action: *Approve minutes.*

Public Comment/Correspondence

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion of Alternate Justin Orenstein (for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath), seconded by Alternate Paola Bassignana (for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez), there being no objection, the SFVCOG approved the July 14, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes 9:**

Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza  
Mashael Majid for Vice-Chair Councilmember Nithya Raman  
Justin Orenstein for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath  
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez  
Daniel Lopez for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian  
Jeff Jacobberger for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield  
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee  
Councilmember Marsha McLean  
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi



**Abstentions 1:** John Takhtalian Councilmember Elen Asatryan

**Absent 2:** Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger  
Councilmember Imelda Padilla

7. **FINANCIAL REPORT (PAGE 18)**

Review FY 2025-26 Financials July 14, 2025 through October 1, 2025

Recommended Action: *Receive and file financial report.*

Public Comment/Correspondence

John Bwarie, Executive Director, announced the SFVCOG balance is around \$350,000.00 and this balance does not include the allocated funds for community college student homeless services. Those allocated funds are in an Los Angeles County CEO account and will be distributed to the community colleges directly. John Bwarie clarified that the only way SFVCOG funds are added is through grants and sponsorships.

There was no public comment.

8. **SEPULVEDA TRANSIT CORRIDOR (PAGE 19)**

Recommended Action: *Approve or modify the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (SFVCOG) Transportation Committee recommendation of submitting Options 5 and 6 as the SFVCOG's preferred options, and direct staff to submit formal comments consistent with this decision.*

Public Comment/Correspondence

John Bwarie, Executive Director, explained that this project has many years in development. A few months ago, LA Metro released a Draft EIR, Environment Impact Report, looking for public comment and recommendations from the SFVCOG. The Transportation Committee, after discussions, gave the recommendations for Options 5 and 6.

Cecily Way, Senior Executive Officer, Countywide Planning and Development for LA Metro was present and clarified any questions the SFVCOG had over the alternative options.

On motion of Alternate Daniel Lopez (for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian), seconded by Chair Mary Mendoza, the motion to approve the Transportation Committee's recommendation to support Options 5 and 6 in the LA Metro Draft EIR failed to pass, with the following roll call vote:



**Ayes 6:** Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza  
Justin Orenstein for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath  
Daniel Lopez for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian  
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee  
Councilmember Marsha McLean  
John Takhtalian Councilmember Elen Asatryan

**Noes 4:** Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez  
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi  
Mashael Majid for Vice-Chair Councilmember Nithya Raman  
Jeff Jacobberger for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield

**Absent 2:** Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger  
Councilmember Imelda Padilla

Chair Mary Mendoza declared a brief recess at 11:22 a.m.; the meeting reconvened at 11:36 a.m.

On the motion of Chair Mary Mendoza, and by Common Consent, there being no objection, with the absence of Supervisor Kathryn Barger and Councilmember Imelda Padilla, formed an Ad-Hoc Committee to develop recommendation(s) from the LA Metro Draft EIR with the following members:

County District 2 Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, County District 3 Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, County District 4 Councilmember Nithya Raman, County District 6 Councilmember Imelda Padilla, Third District Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath and Burbank Vice Mayor Tamala Takashi.

The first Ad Hoc Committee meeting was scheduled to be held in the City of Burbank on November 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

9. **SAN FERNANDO RIGHT OF WAY (PAGE 22)**  
Recommended Action: *Approve the recommendations from the ad hoc committee to establish Scenario 2 with conditions as the SFVCOG's formal position on this project.*  
Public Comment/Correspondence

Public Comment from Nayeli Garcia Leonardo, Assembly Member of Celeste



Rodriguez, made a public comment on this item.

John Bwarie, Executive Director, clarified that this item is to improve upon the recommendation of the ad hoc committee. Impacts, desires and improvements LA Metro could implement were discussed in those meetings. The passing of this item would result in the SFVCOG written a letter in support of Scenario 2 to LA Metro.

LA Metro staff was there to answer questions from the SFVCOG Board.

After discussion, on the motion of Councilmember Marsha McLean, seconded by Alternate Paola Bassignana (for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez), the SFVCOG failed to pass this item, with the following roll call vote:

**Ayes 9:** Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza  
Daniel Lopez for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian  
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee  
Councilmember Marsha McLean  
John Takhtalian Councilmember Elen Asatryan  
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez  
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi  
Mashael Majid for Vice-Chair Councilmember Nithya Raman  
Jeff Jacobberger for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield

**Abstain 1:** Justin Orenstein for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath

**Absent 2:** Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger  
Councilmember Imelda Padilla

Alternate Justin Orenstein expressed regret for his earlier vote, noting that he had participated in the Ad Hoc Committee and contributed to the recommendations provided to LA Metro. He stated that he had recently been informed that California State Senator Caroline Menjivar (20th District) and Assemblywoman Celeste Rodriguez (43rd District) had expressed concerns regarding SFVCOG's recommendation of Scenario 2 to LA Metro.

Executive Director John Bwarie clarified that this information was newly received and that there was insufficient time to make any adjustments during



the current meeting. He recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee discuss any necessary adjustments at its November 17 meeting.

Staff representing Assemblywoman Celeste Rodriguez indicated they were not aware of the Assemblywoman's position on the matter and could not provide an official statement.

The LA Metro representative stated that failure to receive an SFVCOG recommendation at this meeting could significantly impact the project timeline and jeopardize the ability to secure funding.

After discussion, on the motion of Alternate Justin Orenstein, seconded by Alternate Jeff Jacobberger (for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield), SFVCOG moved to void the roll call vote results of Item 9 failing to pass, by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes 10:** Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza  
Daniel Lopez for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian  
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee  
Councilmember Marsha McLean  
John Takhtalian Councilmember Elen Asatryan  
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez  
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi  
Mashaël Majid for Vice-Chair Councilmember Nithya Raman  
Jeff Jacobberger for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield  
Justin Orenstein for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath

**Absent 2:** Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger  
Councilmember Imelda Padilla

On the motion of Councilmember Marsha McLean, seconded by Alternate Jeff Jacobberger (for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield), SFVCOG moved to pass this item with the following roll call vote:

**Ayes 10:** Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza  
Daniel Lopez for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian  
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee



Councilmember Marsha McLean  
John Takhtalian Councilmember Elen Asatryan  
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez  
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi  
Mashaël Majid for Vice-Chair Councilmember Nithya Raman  
Jeff Jacobberger for Councilmember Bob Blumenfeld  
Justin Orenstein for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath

**Absent 2:** Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger  
Councilmember Imelda Padilla

- 10. LACAHSa MOU AND THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO MOU (PAGE 25)**  
Recommended Action: *Delegate Authority to the Executive Director to execute an Memorandum of Understanding a) with Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHSa) for Measure A formula funds. The \$431,315.00 in Measure A formula funds (2025–2026) will support local affordable housing efforts. Funds are provided through the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency(LACAHSa) and will be passed through to the City of San Fernando. This MOU ensures the City receives these resources to advance housing solutions that benefit the San Fernando Valley community., and b) with the City of San Fernando to receive those formula funds. Under this agreement, SFVCOG will pass through the full \$431,315.00 in Measure A formula funds (2025–2026) to the City of San Fernando. This ensures the City directly receives and administers the funds to advance local affordable housing projects that benefit the community.*  
Public Comment/Correspondence

Chair Mary Mendoza made a disclosure that as the Chair of SFVCOG and Mayor of the City of San Fernando she has a non-interest on this item, Item 10.

John Bwarie, Executive Director, explained that due to the bylaws of Measure A, the SFVCOG would need a have a contract with LACAHSa to be able to receive all Measure A funding allocated to the City of San Fernando. The SFVCOG would then transfer those funds to the City of San Fernando.

On the motion of Councilmember Marsha McLean, seconded by Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi, the SFVCOG passed this item with the following roll call vote:

**Ayes 10:** Chair Mayor Mary Mendoza



Daniel Lopez for Councilmember Adrin Nazarian  
Myrka Martinez for Councilmember John Lee  
Councilmember Marsha McLean  
John Takhtalian Councilmember Elen Asatryan  
Paola Bassignana for Councilmember Monica Rodriguez  
Vice-Mayor Tamala Takahashi  
Mashael Majid for Vice-Chair Councilmember Nithya Raman  
Jeff Jacobberger for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield  
Justin Orenstein for Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath

**Absent 2:** Dave Perry for Supervisor Kathryn Barger  
Councilmember Imelda Padilla

**11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

Executive Director John Bwarie announced that the Sepulveda Transit Corridor will be discussed at the Ad Hoc Committee meeting scheduled for November 17, 2025.

**12. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

**13. NEXT MEETING**

Board Meeting: January 12, 2026 in Glendale at 10:00 a.m.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Mary Mendoza adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

**Notices:**

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San Fernando Valley Council of Governments  
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda - Monday, October 6, 2025

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DRAFT

San Fernando Valley Council of Governments  
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda - Monday, October 6, 2025

10



# San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

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DATE: November 4, 2025  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: John Bwarie, Executive Director

## **RE: Sepulveda Transit Corridor DEIR Alternatives**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Board supports Alternatives 5 and/or 6, as presented in Metro’s Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project, with an openness to consider additional alignment and grading options, different technologies (the automated version of the Alternative 6 alignment), and value engineering in order to deliver a heavy-rail alternative, mitigate housing impacts, property acquisitions, utility conflicts, and projects costs. Any alternative must have a direct connection, within the paid area, between the G Line and the Sepulveda Transit Corridor.

### **BACKGROUND**

The SFVCOG formed an ad hoc committee to further study the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Alternatives, with members representing SD3, CD2, CD3, CD4, CD6, and City of Burbank participating. The Ad Hoc committee focused on the need to ensure that the project reflects Valley priorities, equity in project delivery, and effective connections to the regional network.

Since the Sepulveda Transit Corridor is a generational mobility investment intended to connect the San Fernando Valley to West Los Angeles, it must provide a high-capacity transit option through one of the most congested corridors in the nation. For the SFVCOG, this project represents a critical opportunity to secure long-term regional connectivity, economic benefits, and equity in project implementation.

### **KEY DISCUSSION THEMES**

#### **Project Delivery & Equity**

- The SFVCOG supports heavy rail alternatives that deliver a project as quickly and efficiently as possible.
- Metro should also ensure a firm commitment to a deliverable, equitable project that offers the best service for riders.
- Alternatives 5 and 6 (heavy rail) are generally preferred due to their ridership potential, direct regional connections, and lower displacement impacts as compared to other alternatives as presented.

#### **Aerial Considerations**

- Members asked whether limited aerial segments could be added on the Westside to balance the cost and design impacts of aerial alignments in the Valley.

- Questions were raised about pylon spacing (potentially less than 15 feet) and geometric constraints on the narrower Westside corridor.

#### **Tunnel Portal Location**

- The Committee remains open to alternate tunnel portal locations that reduce residential displacement if supported by technical analysis.

#### **Connections to G Line, Metrolink, and East Valley Corridor**

- Metro currently has no plans for a direct connection between the G Line and East San Fernando Valley Line.
- The DEIR’s proposed 600-foot transfer at the G Line Sepulveda Station is a significant concern.
- The COG recommends Metro integrate station design improvements, such as: elevators/escalators and direct transfer points into the Sepulveda Transit project scope.
- The Van Nuys Metrolink Station and nearby DWP Mid-Valley facilities were identified as key assets needing coordinated planning.

#### **Technology and Operations**

- Alternative 6 offers potential operational benefits with higher frequency and reduced ventilation infrastructure.
- The SFVCOG requests clarification from Metro on what “technology” means particularly regarding automation, tunneling methods, and headways.
- Priority should be given to frequency and reliability, which affect total travel time and thus drive ridership.

#### **Value Engineering and Cost**

- The Committee supports Metro conducting further value engineering and technical analysis of alignment options, including single-bore tunneling and automated technology.
- The SFVCOG remains open to a hybrid approach that combines the strongest elements of different alternatives.

#### **Phasing and Project Implementation**

- Members discussed the potential for phase construction, beginning with the segment from the Van Nuys Metrolink Station to the G Line, to ensure early Valley benefits.
- The SFVCOG requests Metro to investigate phasing/sequencing options along with cost and implementation considerations for construction and operations that begin in the San Fernando Valley and deliver a completed project as expediently as possible.

#### **405 ExpressLanes and Regional Connectivity**

- The SFVCOG supports accelerating the I-405 ExpressLanes project to complement the Sepulveda Transit Corridor.
- Integration with the Purple and Expo Lines is critical for regional mobility.
- The project should also plan for future Valley east-west connectivity (e.g., Roscoe or Nordhoff corridors) and direct links to both Burbank and LAX airports.
- Members emphasized that the SFVCOG must be more actively included in Metro’s regional transit planning discussions and modeling.

- The project should serve as both a transportation improvement and an economic engine for the Valley.

### **SUMMARY**

The SFVCOG ad hoc Sepulveda Transit Corridor Committee expressed a strong preference for heavy rail alignment (Alternatives 5 and 6) that, as presented in the DEIR, maximize ridership, minimize displacement, and ensure equity and project delivery. The ad hoc Committee remains open to modifications, including limited aerial segments, innovative tunneling and train technologies, and cost-saving engineering solutions. The ad hoc Committee notes that any of the phasing of the project will begin in the San Fernando Valley due to alternatives' proposals for Maintenance and Storage Facilities being located in the Valley.

Ultimately, the ad hoc Committee's position centers on ensuring that the Sepulveda Transit Corridor is funded or financed and built, as it will deliver meaningful connectivity, reduce congestion, and serve as a catalyst for economic growth.