



Notification

Date: September 24, 2013

Location: Stockton, CA

Contact: Dan Leavitt, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, (209) 944-6266

San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRR) extends scoping period until October 18, 2013; schedules Public Online Event on ACEforward

Last week Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, the Federal Railway Administration released its "Notice of Intent" (NOI) for the ACEforward project, effectively extending the scoping period by another 30 days until October 18, 2013. To accommodate this extended scoping period, SJRR is announcing an online web event for agencies and the public to learn more about the project and provide comments.

The general public, agencies, and interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend the public online event to learn more about the project and to provide comments. The online event will held on October 9, 2013 from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM PST. Please visit this web address 10 minutes before the scheduled time:

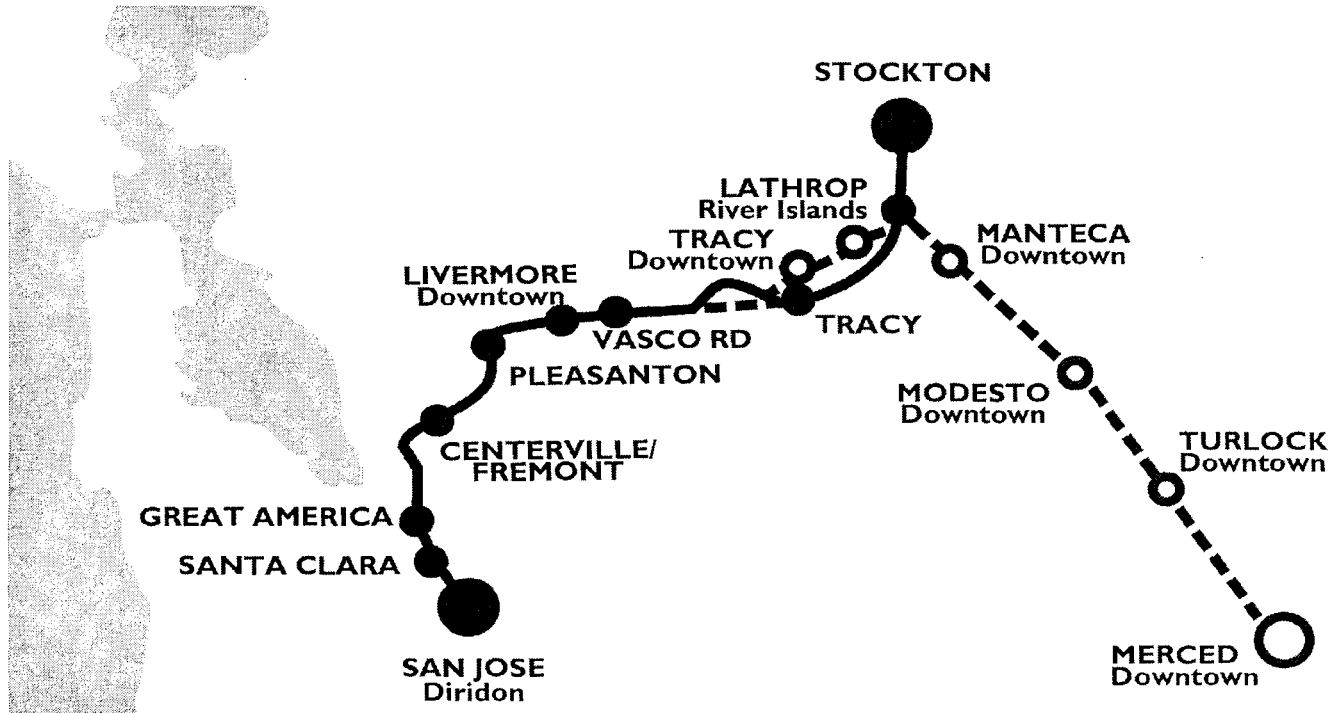
<https://aecom.webex.com/aecom/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=251239208>

More information about ACEforward, the NOI, and instructions on how to join and participate in the online event is available on the web at acerail.com:

<http://www.acerail.com/About/Public-Projects/ACEforward>

The public is invited to comment on proposed improvements and expansion of existing Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) rail service between Stockton and San Jose and extension of new ACE rail service to Downtown Modesto by as early as 2018 and Merced by as early as 2022. The SJRR and the Federal Rail Administration are jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the ACEforward Program in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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The existing ACE service route (solid line) will receive new improvements and the proposed extension (dashed line) to downtown Manteca and downtown Modesto by 2018 and downtown Turlock and Merced by as early as 2022. Moving ACE to downtown Tracy by 2022 is also being investigated.

The purpose of the *ACEforward* Program is to implement a series of projects to reduce travel time, increase service reliability and frequency, improve passenger facilities, and extend the reach of the ACE rail system. *ACEforward* aims to improve ACE by delivering safety and operational improvements—enabling expansion of service from four to six daily round trips between Stockton and San Jose and extending service to Modesto as early as 2018. Service would then extend to Merced and provide the ability to run 10 daily round trips or more from Stockton to San Jose as early as 2022.

Public comments on the scope of the environmental review will now be accepted through October 18, 2013. Comments may be submitted in writing to Dan Leavitt, Manager of Regional Initiatives, ATTN: *ACEforward* Program EIR/EIS, SJRRC/ACE Headquarters 949 East Channel Street, Stockton, CA 95202, or via email with the Subject line “*ACEforward* EIR/EIS” to: aceforward@acerail.com.

About the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission

The San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRC) owns and operates, and is the policy-making body for the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) service. SJRRC is governed by a Board of Directors, who is appointed by the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) based on nominations by the local elected government. Ex-officio members represent Caltrans District 10, the San Joaquin Regional Transit District (SJRTD), and SJCOG. To learn more, please visit the SJRRC website at <http://www.acerail.com/About/Board-of-Directors> and join the conversation at [facebook.com/ACEforward](https://www.facebook.com/ACEforward). There is a link for *ACEforward* on the front page at <http://www.acerail.com>.