

Fact Sheet: The LA County Freight Rail Efficiency Project at Malabar Yard Caltrans, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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Project Location:

The City of Vernon, Los Angeles County

Project Scope:

The LA County Freight Rail Efficiency Project at Malabar Yard (the "Project") will provide replacement for intermodal railcar storage capacity that will otherwise be lost due to implementation of the Link Union Station (Link US) project. Construction to support passenger-rail improvements for the Link US project will require the removal of existing intermodal freight railcar storage tracks at BNSF's West Bank Yard. The West Bank Yard stores and stages empty intermodal railcars, which are regularly moved to and from nearby Hobart Yard, the busiest intermodal rail terminal in the country and a critical link for the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Unless replacement intermodal railcar storage capacity is provided, the loss of intermodal railcar storage capacity at West Bank Yard will necessitate that displaced intermodal railcars be stored on mainline tracks as rolling stocks to Barstow and points east, which will substantially degrade on-time service levels on the freight-rail mainlines. Therefore, the Project will convert Malabar Yard's operational and infrastructure aspects to offset the loss of intermodal rail car storage at West Bank Yard due to the Link US project. The Project will provide safety, public health, economic competitiveness, and other benefits as compared to the "No-Build" scenario. The Project components include the following:

1. *49th Street Closure*: Permanently closing the 49th Street at-grade rail crossing through the existing seven tracks at Malabar Yard, will add approximately 2,500 to 3,000 feet of uninterrupted track storage capacity, which will allow intermodal railcar sets to be stored at this facility.
2. *The Los Angeles Junction (46th Street) Connector*: Constructing approximately 750 feet of new track to connect Malabar Yard with the Los Angeles Junction Railway (LAJ) through East 46th Street in the city of Vernon will provide a short direct route between LAJ and Malabar Yard, which will maintain existing BNSF customer service in the city of Vernon.
3. *Fruitland Avenue Restriping*: Creating one new travel lane in each direction through restriping of the existing right-of-way, will minimize impacts to vehicular traffic from the 49th Street closure.

Project Cost:

Total Project Cost:	\$84,738,000	Total TCEP Request:	\$65,200,000
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Project Schedule:

End PA&ED:	Beg PS&E:	RTL:	R/W:	Beg CON:	End CON:
12/31/2020	01/01/2021	02/28/2023	10/01/2021	03/01/2023	05/31/2024

Project Benefits:

The proposed improvements will offset the loss of empty freight railcar storage capacity to the BNSF West Bank Yard due to Link US and produce net present value of over \$139 million with a BCR of 2.8 over 30 years at 4 percent discounting rate. The Project benefits derive from a variety of effects, including: (1) reduced intermodal railcar miles of travel, (2) reduced Operation & Maintenance costs for maintenance of grade crossings and locomotives; (3) reduced transportation handling costs for empty intermodal railcars; (4) reduced delay times for manifest railcar customers in the Project area; (5) improved mainline rail network capacity to support regional freight rail growth; and (6) avoided truck VMT, VHT, and fuel consumption due to loss of mainline rail network capacity and diversion of rail-served demand to long-haul trucking. The Project implementation will also result in 556 jobs created during construction.