

METROLINK DOUBLE TRACK PROJECT: MORENO VALLEY TO PERRIS

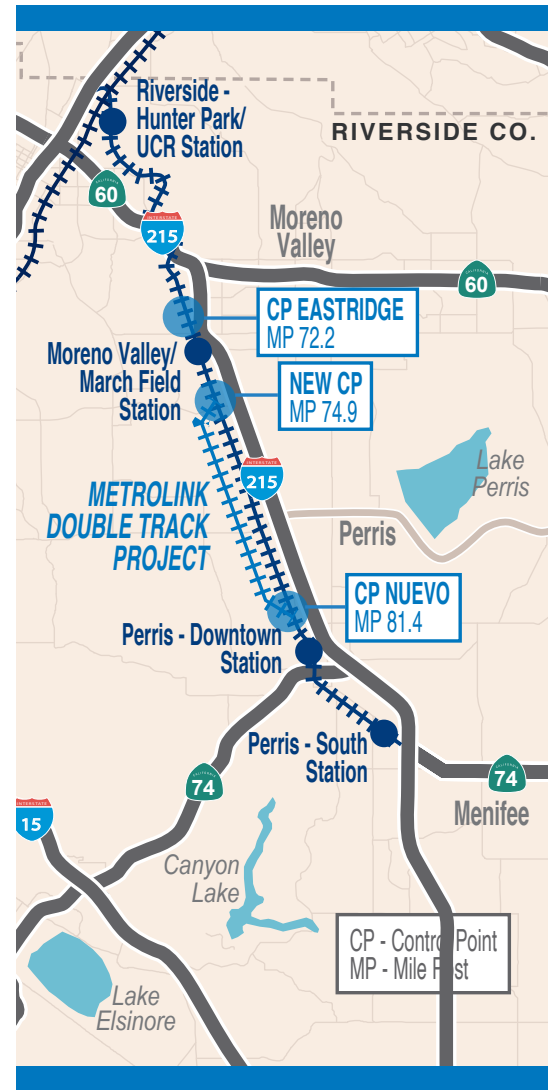
PROJECT SCOPE, COST & BENEFITS:

The Metrolink Double Track Project: Moreno Valley to Perris will improve 6.5 miles of existing freight railroad track to meet standards for Metrolink passenger rail service. The historic freight tracks are rated for much slower speeds than passenger trains require; the upgrades will provide two sets of upgraded tracks between the Moreno Valley/March Field Station and just north of the Perris-Downtown Station along the Metrolink 91/Perris Valley Line.

The Riverside County Transportation Commission, in partnership with the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, which operates Metrolink passenger rail service, will award a contract in late 2022 to complete the final design phase for the project. This phase will include environmental and development of construction plans, specifications, and cost estimates. If funding is secured, construction could begin in June 2024. Total costs for engineering/environmental studies, final design, and construction are estimated at \$31 million.

Once completed, the double tracks will improve operational reliability and set the stage for additional service along the 91/PVL, which is needed to reduce traffic congestion on Interstate 215. These improvements will enhance travel options for Riverside County commuters, who face some of the longest commutes in southern California. The project will also increase access to jobs and education in this traditionally underserved area, reduce air pollution, and help Metrolink achieve its goal of providing bidirectional service every 30 minutes in time for the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics in Los Angeles. Lake Perris will host the rowing and canoe sprint events as part of the Olympiad.

The project will connect to the Moreno Valley/March Field Station Improvements Project, which began construction in October 2022. This project is upgrading 2.7 miles of track south of the station, adding a second station platform for boarding trains, and extending the length of the existing station platform to match the size of Metrolink's train sets.



GHG EMISSIONS, EQUITY, IMPACT MITIGATION:

The Metrolink Double Track Project: Moreno Valley to Perris is a vital component of RCTC's vision to implement safe multimodal solutions in Riverside County's rapidly growing communities near Perris. Riverside County has the fastest-growing population in California and the fifth fastest-growing population in the nation.

Of the 185,000 residents living within census tracts within a half mile of the project area, 73% reside in low income or disadvantaged communities. The double-track investments will improve rail mobility and access for these priority populations and bring greater overall system reliability for Metrolink. In addition, Metrolink currently offers a Low-Income Fare Program that provides half-price fares for income eligible residents. RCTC conducts frequent, ongoing outreach to these communities and offers free trips for school and senior groups along the Perris Valley Line.

The significant capacity available to accommodate a modal shift from driving provides California with a transportation tool in its approach to a low carbon future. Estimated greenhouse gas emissions reductions from the Perris Valley Line Double Track project is projected to be 131,203 tons over 20 years of operation, an annual average of 6,560 tons.

Improvements to this rail corridor will open economic development opportunities for the region and expand access to numerous employment centers in the Meridian Parkway center near the 91/Perris Valley Line Moreno Valley/March Field Station. The station offers access to local jobs at March Air Reserve Base, UCPath (the payroll, human resources, accounting hub for all of the state's University of California campuses), Western Municipal Water District, and numerous distribution and logistics centers. In addition, the 91/Perris Valley Line is adjacent to Kaiser Permanente Meridian Medical Offices, Riverside University Medical Center, and Mt. San Jacinto College, Moreno Valley College, University of California-Riverside, and Cal Baptist University in Riverside. The 91/Perris Valley Line stations offer direct connections to Riverside Transit Agency routes countywide. During construction, the project will provide an estimated 355 jobs.

Residential sound walls are in place along much of the 91/Perris Valley Line corridor to reduce noise impacts from increased train service. In addition, this section of the corridor is fully grade separated so there is no mandatory need to use train horns. The project also will provide safety fencing along the 91/PVL corridor to deter individuals from approaching the tracks and mitigate accidents and service disruptions. Construction will take place within the existing railroad corridor to minimize impacts to adjacent communities.

