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## **Omnitrans To Host April 27 Public Meeting for Bus Rapid Transit Service**

Omnitrans will host a meeting April 27 in San Bernardino to seek public comments about a planned bus rapid transit service between San Bernardino and Loma Linda.

The meeting, to be held from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Norman Feldheym Public Library, 555 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St. in San Bernardino, will let visitors learn more about the planned San Bernardino Express, known as sbX. Visitors can view the draft environmental document for the project and talk to sbX planners, engineers and environmental experts.

The proposed 15.7-mile E Street Corridor route will feature 16 stations and is the first of seven bus rapid transit routes that Omnitrans is planning across the San Bernardino Valley.

The E Street Corridor starts at Kendall Drive and Palm Avenue in north San Bernardino, heads south on Kendall to California State University-San Bernardino, continues south on E Street through downtown and then heads east on Hospitality Lane, turns south on Tippecanoe Avenue/Anderson Street near Loma Linda University Medical Center, and then turns east on Barton Road to the Jerry Pettis Memorial Veterans Health Center.

The project schedule calls for construction to begin in 2010 and for passenger service to start in late 2011 or early 2012.

“sbX has the ability to transform the way we travel to work, school, health care centers and entertainment venues in San Bernardino and Loma Linda,” said San Bernardino Mayor Patrick J. Morris, who also serves as a member of the Omnitrans Board of Directors.

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“This new service will improve mobility, stimulate the economy, revitalize our downtown core and offer an environmentally responsible way to travel,” he said.

Omnitrans is promoting sbX as fast, clean and safe, due to bus speeds comparable to cars along the corridor, bus-only lanes in some locations, natural gas powered vehicles and stations equipped with lighting, security cameras and weather-resistant canopies.

The April 27 public meeting will offer information about the route, station locations, parking and potential impacts during construction. Visitors will be asked to complete comment cards with their opinions or concerns about the project.

Loma Linda Councilmember Floyd Petersen, also an Omnitrans Board member, voiced the need for more transportation options, particularly those that use green technology.

“Our city needs more transportation alternatives, and sbX is a healthy, environmentally responsible option to driving personal vehicles,” Petersen said. “The system uses cost effective clean fuel and new technology, providing a perfect complement to Loma Linda’s health-conscious vision.”

The draft environmental document will be available for review at the following locations between April 16 and May 16, for those who cannot attend the meeting:

- Omnitrans, 1700 W. Fifth St., San Bernardino
- sbX Integrated Project Management Office, 201 N. E St., Suite 201, San Bernardino
- Loma Linda Branch Library, 25581 Barton Rd., Loma Linda
- Norman Feldheym Central Library, 555 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., San Bernardino

For more information about the public meetings or the project, call the toll-free project helpline at (877) sbX-4777 or visit [www.estreet-sbx.com](http://www.estreet-sbx.com).