



April 3, 2013

Via E-Mail

Honorable Joseph Rocha and City Council Members
Azusa City Hall
213 E Foothill Blvd,
Azusa, CA 91702

Re: Freeway Tunnel Option in SR-710 Study

Honorable Joseph Rocha and Azusa City Councilmembers,

I am writing to you as a concerned neighbor and President of West Pasadena Residents' Association (WPRA), representing an area with about 7,000 residents and having nearly 1,000 members.

We are convinced that the proposed freeway tunnels extending the 710 freeway are bad for Pasadena and bad for Azusa. Here are some of the reasons:

1. A primary goal stated by Metro is "to help alleviate congestion and improve mobility," but Metro won't say if they are talking about moving people, freight, or both; we think it matters. If it is about moving cargo from the LA and Long Beach ports, wouldn't rail be a better way? Wouldn't extending the Gold Line to Claremont and beyond be a better solution for people, taking cars off the road rather than channeling them through foothill communities?
2. Metro has said building the 710 extension will reduce pollution in the region, but wouldn't concentrating the pollution from 4.5 miles of 8 lanes of traffic and expelling it here in the foothills make pollution worse for foothill communities?
3. Metro tells us the exhaust from the tunnels will be filtered, although they haven't studied how. Other experts consulted tell us there is no technology to filter the most dangerous pollutants -- fine particles and certain chemicals.
4. Building additional freeways has not reduced traffic. The 210 extension to the 15 did not reduce traffic or relieve congestion; it brought more trucks and cars into our communities. See the charts below for specifics.

With these and many other significant issues unresolved, I suggest it is premature to give Metro a blanket statement of support for this very expensive and risky plan to try to construct the longest vehicle tunnels in the United States.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Urban".

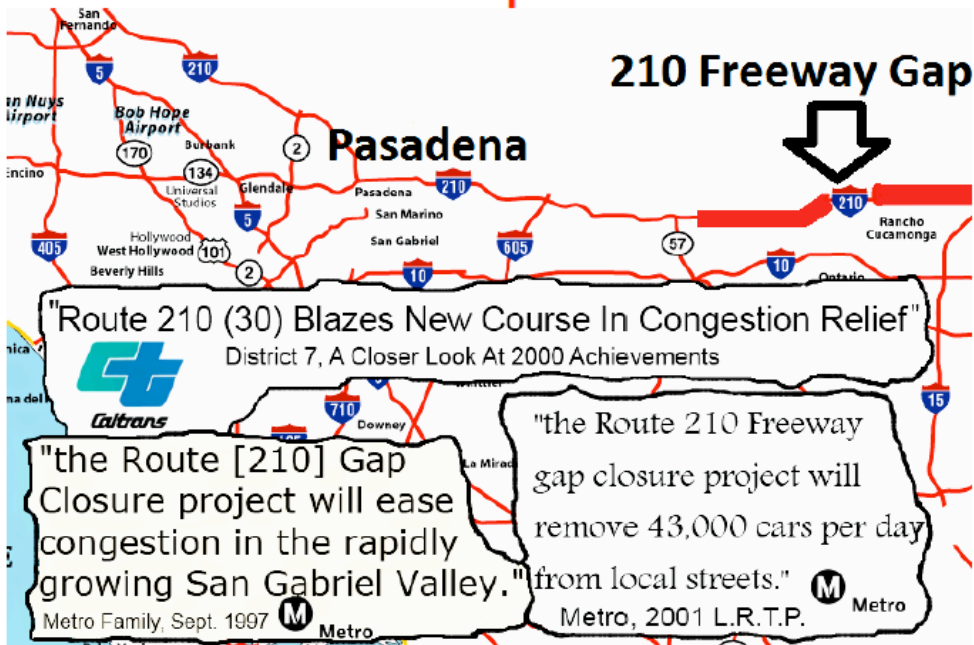
William Urban

**WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
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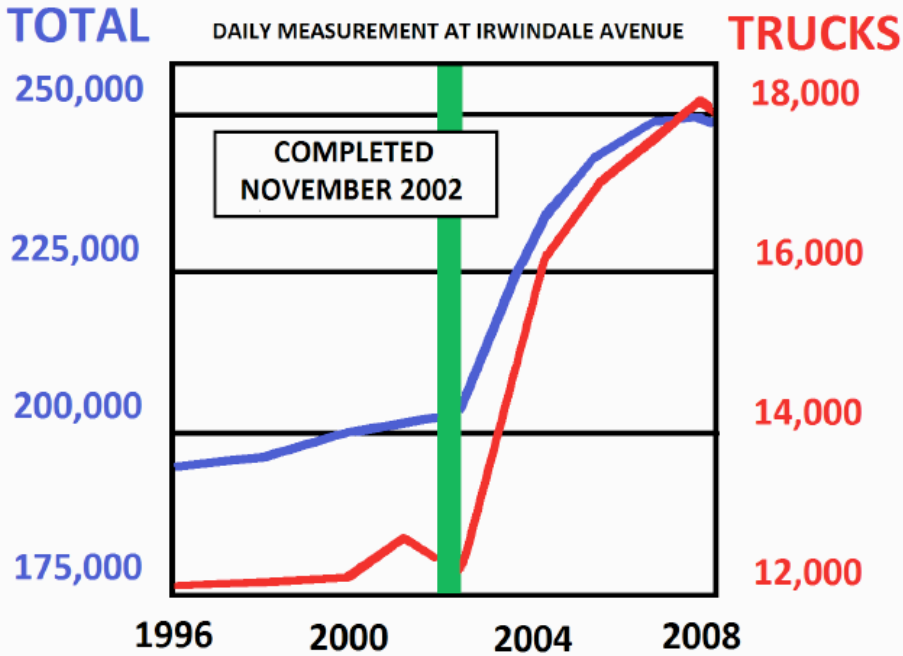
Remember What They Said The Last Time A "Gap" Was Closed



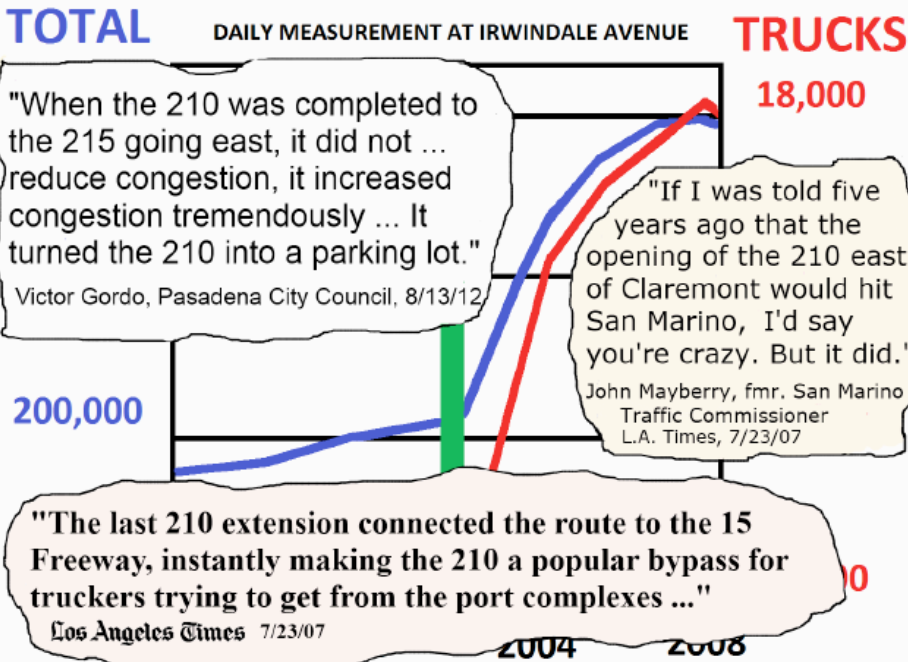
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210 TRAFFIC INCREASES AFTER EASTERN EXTENSION



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