



Date: October 21, 2015

To: Honorable Members of the Board
Los Angeles Metro Transportation Authority
via Michele Jackson, Board Secretary
jacksonm@metro.net
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop: 99-25-1
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2951

Reference: October 22, 2015 Metro Board Meeting, Agenda Item #30

Subject: The West Pasadena Resident's Association requests the elimination of the Tunnel Alternative from the SR-710 North Study environmental process; failure to eliminate this alternative will potentially impact the 2016 transportation tax ballot measure, 'Measure R2'.

The West Pasadena Resident's Association (WPRA) is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in southwest Pasadena. We represent 7,000 households that live near the proposed SR-710 tunnel north portal in Pasadena.

In August 2015, we reviewed and formally responded to the SR-710 Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/EIS). As part of that review, we found the proposed tunnel alternative justification and analysis to be grossly deficient – not just in one or two subject areas, but in ALL subject areas reviewed. The design of the tunnel(s) and their associated infrastructure were very immature. Construction scenarios and missing geologic and seismic analysis failed to demonstrate basic tunnel design feasibility and safety features. Furthermore, fundamental analysis associated with assessing impacts on traffic, air quality, water quality, noise and vibration, subsidence, and economic impacts were seriously flawed. Consequently, the true environmental impacts and costs of the project have not been fairly represented to the public, which is required by both federal and state law. Our findings of deficiency have been further validated by numerous other SR-710 responses submitted, including those by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Southern Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), which also found the tunnel alternative assessment to be 'inadequate'.

Due to the inadequacy of the SR-710 tunnel proposal and Draft EIR/EIS tunnel assessment, and out of consideration for the numerous residents that have suffered from the threat a freeway destroying their communities for more than a half century, we ask that the Tunnel Alternative be removed immediately from the SR-710 North Study. The 210 and 710 'stubs' in Pasadena and Los Angeles (El Sereno) should be returned to those communities so that street networks can be restored. This would not only improve traffic flow in the study area, but would also restore economic vibrancy to these communities.

Rather than spending billions to destroy neighborhoods, Metro should invest in public transit projects that serve all communities and reduced greenhouse gas emissions as required by SB743 and the Governor's April 2015 Executive Order. The City of

Pasadena developed a preferred SR-710 multi-mode alternative that Metro should consider. Other groups, including the El Sereno Coordinating Council and the Beyond the 710 Coalition have proposed similar worthy alternatives.

If the SR-710 Tunnel Alternative is not eliminated, it is likely that thousands of voters in West Pasadena rise in opposition to the proposed 2016 transportation sales tax ballot measure, sometimes referred to as 'Measure R2'. While the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) has removed it from the 'Measure R2' priority list, this is insufficient to mitigate concerns that funds created by the new measure will either get diverted, or free up other money, to pay for the SR-710 proposed tunnels. This is because the tunnels are still included in Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan and the SGVCOG Regional Transportation Plan.

Without assurance of their permanent removal, residents are unlikely to trust that 'Measure R2' funds will not be directly, or indirectly, used on a SR-710 tunnel project. This would be unfortunate since the WPRA strongly advocates multi-modal transportation alternatives and we believe that there are many other worthy transit projects that should be funded by this measure.

Thank you for your consideration.



Geoffrey Baum
WPRA President



Sarah Gavit
WPRA Vice-President, SR-710 Lead

Distribution: WPRA Board Members: wpra@wpra.net