



February 27, 2013

*Via E-Mail*

Michael Antonovich, Chairman  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: **Freeway Tunnel Option in SR-710 Study**

Dear Chair Antonovich and Members of the Board,

The West Pasadena Residents' Association, which represents about 7,000 households in western Pasadena, is very concerned about continued waste of valuable transportation money in studying and promoting a clearly flawed concept for supposedly improving transportation in metropolitan Los Angeles.

The freeway tunnel option (number F7) is, we believe, being promoted by individuals in Metro who are using biased assumptions to "game" the EIS/EIR process toward the result they have been advocating for decades -- a freeway extending SR 710. As we have noted in previous correspondence and testimony before the Metro Board, Metro's SR-710 Study Group frequently provides information which is confusing, contradictory and even misleading. This is especially true regarding impacts of air pollution, traffic and trucks, construction, and ever-changing (but always huge) cost estimates. Here are two examples:

1. The traffic studies used in the EIS/EIR assume no tolls for the tunnels. All the other build options in the study have tolls or fares. Yet Metro says substantial tunnel tolls will be needed for the private/public partnership they envision to build and operate the tunnels. This distortion ripples throughout the study.
2. Metro engineers have told us that the exhaust pouring into Alhambra, El Sereno and Pasadena will be cleaner than the ambient air. Yet when asked "how" they say the details have not been studied. Independent sources tell us that there is no existing technology to filter vehicle exhaust to that extent, especially for the most dangerous small particles.

The freeway tunnel option is by far the most challenging, risky and controversial option being considered. It must be taking an in-ordinate portion of the study funds to analyze and justify.

WPRA urges you to withdraw the tunnel alternative and to focus on modern solutions, rail for cargo and public transit options, such as the Gold Line.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Urban".

William Urban  
WPRA President

**cc:**

**Metro Board:**

Michael Antonovich [fifthdistrict@lacbos.org](mailto:fifthdistrict@lacbos.org)  
Diane Dubois [kheit@gatewaycog.org](mailto:kheit@gatewaycog.org)  
Richard Katz [Katzr@scrra.net](mailto:Katzr@scrra.net)  
Antonio Villaraigosa [mayor@lacity.org](mailto:mayor@lacity.org)  
Don Knabe [fourthdistrict@lacbos.org](mailto:fourthdistrict@lacbos.org)  
John Fasana [fasanaj@accessduarte.com](mailto:fasanaj@accessduarte.com)  
Jose Huizar [Councilmember.Huizar@lacity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Huizar@lacity.org)  
Ara Najarian [anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us](mailto:anajarian@ci.glendale.ca.us)  
Pam O'Connor [Pam.Oconnor@smgov.net](mailto:Pam.Oconnor@smgov.net)  
Mark Ridley-Thomas [drosenfeld@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:drosenfeld@bos.lacounty.gov)  
Zev Yaroslavsky [thirddistrict@lacbos.org](mailto:thirddistrict@lacbos.org)  
Mel Wilson [alterawilson@gmail.com](mailto:alterawilson@gmail.com)  
General Mailbox [boardsecretary@metro.net](mailto:boardsecretary@metro.net)

**Metro/Caltrans Staff:**

Arthur Leahy, CEO Metro [leahyA@metro.net](mailto:leahyA@metro.net)  
Michael Cano [mcano@lacbos.org](mailto:mcano@lacbos.org)  
Frank Quon, SR-710 Study [quonf@metro.net](mailto:quonf@metro.net)  
Garrett Damrath, Caltrans [garrett.damrath@dot.ca.gov](mailto:garrett.damrath@dot.ca.gov)  
Michael Miles, Caltrans [michael.miles@dot.ca.gov](mailto:michael.miles@dot.ca.gov)  
Michelle Smith, Metro [smithmi@metro.net](mailto:smithmi@metro.net)  
Doug Failing [failingd@metro.net](mailto:failingd@metro.net)  
Ron Kozinski, Caltrans [ron.kosinski@dot.ca.gov](mailto:ron.kosinski@dot.ca.gov)

**Pasadena City Council:**

Mayor Bill Bogaard [bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net)  
Victor Gordo [vdelacuba@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:vdelacuba@cityofpasadena.net)  
Jacque Robinson [district1@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:district1@cityofpasadena.net)  
Margaret McAustin [mfuller@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mfuller@cityofpasadena.net)  
Gene Masuda [nsullivan@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:nsullivan@cityofpasadena.net)  
Steve Madison [smadison@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:smadison@cityofpasadena.net)  
Terry Tornek [ttornek@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ttornek@cityofpasadena.net)

**Pasadena City Staff:**

City Manager Michael Beck [mbeck@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mbeck@cityofpasadena.net)  
Transportation Director Fred Dock [fdock@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:fdock@cityofpasadena.net)  
Public Health Director Eric Walsh [ewalsh@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ewalsh@cityofpasadena.net)

**Other:**

State Assembly Member Chris Holden  
State Senator Carol Liu  
Congressman Adam Schiff [teresa.lamb@mail.house.gov](mailto:teresa.lamb@mail.house.gov)