



November 12, 2013

*Via E-Mail*

Pasadena Mayor, Honorable Bill Bogaard, and Pasadena City Council

Re: **Request that City Council Have City Staff Prepare a Plan for a Thorough SR-710 DEIR Review**

The West Pasadena Residents' Association (WPRA) is concerned about the City's readiness to review and respond to the SR-710 DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) after its planned release in early 2014. This DEIR is expected to be voluminous, technical and complex, with 5 major alternatives identified and at least 6 sub-options for just the highway tunnel alternatives. Many of these alternatives, especially those involving highway tunnels, are expected to have severe and permanent impacts on our city and the quality of life for its residents. This DEIR demands a full review and analysis by the city.

In February 2013, the Pasadena City Council passed a motion to have city staff collaborate with neighboring cities for the review of the DEIR. However, these collaborations will likely focus on regional impacts.

The City of Pasadena must evaluate the DEIR for local Pasadena impacts. Recent discussions with city staff and commission members indicate that they currently are not planning to review the DEIR, or believe that they cannot do so without specific direction from the City Council. **Please direct City staff to prepare for and conduct a thorough review of the SR-710 DEIR.**

Some of the questions that need to be answered in planning for the DEIR review are listed on the next page of this letter. The WPRA Board would be pleased to meet with city officials to receive responses to these questions.

Furthermore, we continue to encourage you to vote to oppose the highway tunnel options, which would have will have a permanent and negative impact on our city.

Thank you for considering our request.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Urban". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

William Urban  
WPRA President

## **Some Questions Regarding City of Pasadena Review of SR-710 DEIR:**

- 1) What is the City's detailed plan for the DEIR's 8-week public review period?
- 2) What departments and commissions will perform the review?
- 3) How will Metro's claims be validated, especially with respect to the local impact on Pasadena?
- 4) What is the scope of the review? For example,
  - What impact factors will be reviewed?
  - Will the city recommend mitigation plans to ensure the best possible outcome with respect to noise, traffic, safety, construction, health and visible impacts to our city?
  - Will the city consider
    - Economic impacts to local businesses and city revenue during the expected 9- to 12-year construction period, and due to the increased congestion after construction?
    - Economic impact due to loss of property values and tax revenue?
    - The impact of traffic in the vicinity of freeway exit/entries, including Lake, Fair Oaks, Mountain, Orange Grove and San Rafael?
    - Impact to Pasadena's key assets (e.g. Old Pasadena, the Rose Parade, the Arroyo Seco Park, historic buildings)?
    - Public health impacts of increased freeway and truck traffic on the 210 and 134 freeways, particularly to schools, hospitals and other healthcare facilities?
    - Health impact to those living and working near tunnel vents?
  - Since the tunnel will not connect the with the 110 freeway, and the Del Mar and California exits will be closed, will the city analyze new routes for connecting the 110 and 210/134 freeways and the affect on local traffic?
  - In reviewing alternatives to the tunnel, will the city recommend removing the 210/710 'stub', which has been a visual scar on our city for decades?
- 5) How will public comments from Pasadena residents be received, processed and incorporated into recommendations?
- 6) What is the decision making process for determining what is submitted to Metro in response to the EIR; will the City Council vote on the EIR comments package that is submitted to Metro?

### **Distribution:**

#### Pasadena Mayor:

Honorable Bill Bogaard [bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net)

#### Pasadena City Council:

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)

John Kennedy [ChristianCruz@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ChristianCruz@cityofpasadena.net)

#### Pasadena City Manager & Staff:

Michael Beck [mbeck@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mbeck@cityofpasadena.net)

Steve Mermell [smermell@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:smermell@cityofpasadena.net)

Fred Dock [fdock@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:fdock@cityofpasadena.net)

#### WPRA Board Members:

[board.wpra@wpra.net](mailto:board.wpra@wpra.net)