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WHAT IS THE PEOPLE'S MOTION?

BACKGROUND ON THE PEOPLE'S MOTION

MTA has two major requirements when building a major project: 1) It has to be studied (i.e. environmentally cleared through an Environmental Impact Report); and 2) it has to be funded. Although the Leimert Park Village station has NOT been funded by Metro, it has been environmentally cleared. This means that if the construction firms bidding on the Crenshaw-LAX Line contract bid low enough or additional resources are identified, the station can be built as part of the project. Comparatively, the Park Mesa Heights tunnel has NOT been environmentally cleared, meaning even if bids are low enough to integrate the tunnel into the project **it still could not be built**. The People's Motion is an effort to simply study the Park Mesa Heights tunnel so that bids can be requested that integrate the option into the project.

During the discussion of the Mark Ridley-Thomas motion to fund both the Park Mesa Heights Tunnel and Leimert Park Village Station at the May 26, 2011 MTA Board meeting, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa stated he would support such a strategy in an attempt to make the Crenshaw-LAX project the best it could be:

"Now with respect to the undergrounding, I do not believe, and I said this in a meeting the other day, that undergrounding as proposed here is an appropriate policy decision to do, I do not believe that. But if we could do that within the amount of money here given that we're looking at maybe 25 – 30% lower bids over the last few years, although I'm not supportive of it as a public policy decision, not every decision we make is based on public policy. So Mr. Ridley-Thomas, to direct my comments to you for a moment, if you would accept that as an amendment, hopefully friendly, I would be willing to get behind it." –Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa May 26, 2011 MTA Board Meeting (listen at <http://crenshawsubway.org/multimedia/mrt-motion-mayor-friendly.mp3>)

If the Mayor supports it, and if South L.A. politicians are actually committed to doing everything they can to preserve and protect Crenshaw Blvd's future, one would think passing The People's Motion would be easy. There is little harm in simply studying the tunnel and asking the contractors to bid on it.

TEXT OF THE PEOPLE'S MOTION

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT the MTA Board of Directors direct the CEO to:

1. Initiate an environmental review process to environmentally clear and immediately integrate an option for a below grade alignment between 48th Street and 59th Street on Crenshaw Blvd in the City of Los Angeles ("Park Mesa Heights Tunnel option") in the Crenshaw-to-LAX Transit Corridor Environmental Impact Statement/Report.
 - a. Request of the Federal Transit Administration an expedited process to review the Park Mesa Heights Tunnel option.
2. Include the Park Mesa Heights Tunnel as a bid option during the construction procurement, i.e. bidders will propose prices for a below grade option from 48th Street to 59th Street on Crenshaw Blvd in the City of Los Angeles.