



CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA

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May 20, 2016

Phillip A. Washington, CEO
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Mail Stop: 99-13-1
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Re: Metro's Potential Ballot Measure and Expenditure Plan

Dear Mr. Washington,

The City of South Pasadena (City) recognizes the importance of the Potential Ballot Measure (PBM) to the County of Los Angeles and would like to support the major transportation projects that have been identified in the proposed Expenditure Plan. However, the City maintains serious concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with the potential Tunnel Alternative of the State Route 710 (SR-710) North Project.

The City applauds the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' (SGVCOG) foresight in removing the SR-710 North Project from the SGVCOG priority list of projects and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) wisdom in excluding the SR-710 from the proposed Expenditure Plan. While the SR-710 North Project is not included in the proposed Expenditure Plan, the project is included in the Metro Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). According to Senate Bill 767 (De León) which authorized the PBM, the SR-710 North Project could potentially receive funding because the legislation provides:

“In the event that there are net revenues in excess of the amount necessary to provide the amount of net revenues specified in the expenditure plan for the projects and programs described therein, *the MTA may expend the excess net revenues on projects and programs in the expenditure plan or the LRTP*. In the event that projects and programs in the expenditure plan are completed without the expenditure of the amount of net revenues specified, the MTA shall expend the excess net revenues on projects and programs in the expenditure plan or the LRTP within the same subregion as the project or program that is completed.” Emphasis added.

Enabling the Tunnel Alternative to receive any funding from the PMB is extremely alarming; especially in light of the Southern California Association of Government's recent conclusion that the Tunnel

Alternative presented the “worst-case” scenario for air quality impacts of all of the SR-710 North Project alternatives.

The City requests that Metro eliminate the Tunnel Alternative from further consideration prior to November 2016 to provide greater transparency and assurances to our voters that the PBM will not provide any funding for the SR-710 North Project Tunnel Alternative. Doing so would help generate greater support for the PBM. If this is not possible, the City requests the following:

- That the Expenditure Plan makes explicit what is already implicit; by adding language that unequivocally precludes the SR-710 North Project Tunnel Alternative from receiving funding under the PBM in the future. The City suggests the following language be included:
 - Metro shall not adopt any amendment to this Sales Tax Measure, including the Expenditure Plan, that relates, either directly or indirectly, to any aspect of construction of a tunnel extending the northern end of the SR-710 freeway to the I-210, SR-134, or SR 110 freeways, including but not limited to studies, environmental impact reports, design, tunnel support systems, or operation and maintenance of such a tunnel.
- That the Metro Board direct Caltrans to formally explore a multi-modal alternative that removes the I-710 and I-210 freeway stubs in El Sereno and Pasadena, enhances land use compatibility, promotes the development of great streets, and improves mobility and economic development; as recommended in the Beyond the 710 proposal.
- That the Metro Board consider all non-tunnel alternatives of the SR-710 North Project to assist the subregion in alleviating traffic and congestion without detrimental environmental impacts on any agency or group of agencies.

Inclusion of these provisions will create a greater sense of public trust and should attract additional votes in favor of the PBM. The City trusts that Metro will provide due consideration to these comments in preparation of the final ballot language and expenditure plan.

We look forward to working with you to developing a successful ballot measure for November 2016 to ensure that the regionally significant projects identified in the proposed expenditure come to fruition in a timely manner.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sergio Gonzalez
South Pasadena City Manager

cc: Metro Board of Directors
Connected Cities and Communities
5-Cities Alliance
South Pasadena City Council

