

July 22, 2024

Metro Board of Directors
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90013

ADVISORY BOARD

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RE: Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project

Dear Metro Board,

ActiveSGV strongly supports local and regional efforts to electrify public transit, reduce pollution, and improve public transit services as such ActiveSGV strongly supports the Sepulveda Transit Corridor (STC) Project alternatives that include a direct, on-campus station at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a seamless connection to the Metro Purple (D) Line in Westwood Village.

As an organization, we are acutely aware of the public health impacts associated with living in one of the most polluted air basins in the United States. Vehicle trips are the main source of air pollution in southern California. The outcomes of our poor air quality are devastating, especially to our inland communities. High rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, as well as cognitive impairments, some cancers, and even obesity have all been linked to exposure to high levels of air pollution. The cost of these health disparities -- particularly long-term, chronic illnesses such as asthma -- is billions in associated healthcare and diminished productivity to LA County.

We urge Metro to select an alternative that maximizes equity and ensures accessibility. Commuters between the San Fernando Valley and the Westside face chronic congestion with limited transit alternatives. Current public transit options are limited to routes necessitating multiple transfers, which often results in commuters using their personal vehicle if they have access to one. This negatively impacts our quality of life, harms our regional economy and limits our ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Metro's ridership projections clearly show that the alternatives with the highest use include a direct stop at the UCLA campus and seamless connection to the D line. A UCLA station is projected to be the busiest non-transfer station in Metro's network when it opens. To motivate people to consider using public transit instead of their vehicles, the future STC needs to go directly to the destinations where the overwhelming majority of people are heading while limiting transfers. Public transit is more appealing to commuters when: there is no need to transfer, it is affordable, and it is fast.

Selecting an alternative that includes an on-campus station at UCLA and a seamless connection to the D Line is key to ensuring Metro can achieve all the goals of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor. The ridership projections of approximately 120,000 boardings per day for several of the alternatives demonstrate this is a project with the potential to transform our region by providing fast and reliable transportation for Angelenos and visitors. The alternatives including an on-campus station at UCLA will provide what our region desperately needs – effective and accessible public transit in one of the most congested corridors in the nation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at david@activeSGV.org. Thank you for your time and consideration,



David Diaz, MPH
Executive Director

CC: Honorable Janice Hahn, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 4 th District
Honorable Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Honorable Fernando Dutra, Councilmember, Whittier City Council
Honorable Lindsey Horvath, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 3 rd District
Honorable Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 5 th District
Honorable Hilda Solis, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 1 st District
Honorable Holly Mitchell, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2 nd District
Honorable Paul Krekorian, Councilmember, Los Angeles City Council, 2 nd District
Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky, Councilwoman, Los Angeles City Council, 5 th District
Honorable Ara J. Najarian, Councilmember, Glendale City Council
Honorable James Butts, Mayor, City of Inglewood
Honorable Tim Sandoval, Mayor, City of Pomona
Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Appointee of the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
Gloria Roberts, Director, Caltrans District 7
Stephanie Wiggins, Metro, Chief Executive Officer