



**CITY COUNCIL**

Stephen A. Del Guercio, Mayor  
Laura Olhasso, Mayor Pro Tem  
Michael T. Davitt  
David A. Spence  
Donald R. Voss

September 24, 2012

The Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa  
Mayor  
City of Los Angeles  
200 North Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

***Re: SR-710 North Extension Project***

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa:

It has been some time since we last communicated but I trust that you will recall that our shared experiences in regional transportation projects date back to the Redline project when you were on the LACTC Board and my law firm (Demetriou, Del Guercio, Springer & Francis) was performing the legal work for the acquisition of the Redline station sites. I salute you for your vision back then as well as your current vision for the accelerated improvement of our region's public transportation systems.

I am, however, writing to you today about a very different project – the so-called SR-710 tunnel extension project (which is now currently being referred to as the F-7 alternative). My city has participated in the various studies conducted by Metro and CalTrans, including the environmental process that is currently underway. From these studies it has become glaringly obvious that the tunnel project will cost undisclosed billions of dollars and will not result in any meaningful improvement in traffic congestion or quality of life. In fact, it has already been clearly demonstrated that the tunnel project will have serious adverse traffic and health impacts on many of the region's cities and communities, including both your city and my city. Simply stated, the tunnel project has too few benefits, too many detriments, and costs far too much.

From my personal experience in participating in the current environmental process representing my city, I can tell you categorically that this process has been a sham and is nothing more than a *post hoc* attempt to justify the ill-conceived tunnel project. As Congressman Adam Schiff stated in his recent September 20, 2012 letter to the Metro Board:

“The environmental review process Metro is engaged in has been excessively focused on the tunnel option....This has only confirmed what many in the community suspected, that Metro was once again starting with the conclusion it wished to reach and is working backwards.”

Congressman Schiff's letter to the Metro Board goes on to point out that it is now beyond dispute that the project will cost too much, the adverse environmental impacts will be too great, and the benefits, if any, will be too small. The overwhelming message from the region's elected

Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa  
September 24, 2012  
Page 2

representatives and their constituents is that the time has come to put an end to this misguided effort.

I respectfully request that you employ your leadership on the Metro Board to stop the waste of taxpayer dollars being spent by Metro to further "study" the tunnel option and to redirect our precious funds to the implementation of worthy alternative transportation projects. We believe, along with Congressman Schiff and the other cities that are opposed to the tunnel option, that there are promising alternatives that are both cost-effective and environmentally sound that can and should be explored.

Your consideration of this very important issue is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Stephen A Del Guercio  
Mayor

cc: Los Angeles County Metro Board of Directors  
Honorable City Council Members, City of La Cañada Flintridge  
Honorable Adam Schiff, Congressman  
Honorable Carol Liu, Senator  
Honorable Anthony J. Portantino, Assembly Member  
Honorable Mike Gatto, Assembly Member  
Honorable Mayor and City Council Members, City of Glendale  
Honorable City Council Members, City of Los Angeles  
Honorable Mayor and City Council Members, City of Pasadena  
Honorable Mayor and City Council Members, City of South Pasadena