



City of Downey

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YVETTE M. ABICH GARCIA

September 30, 2020

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Metro Board Members:

As you are aware, on September 2, 2020 the Gateway Cities COG Board supported the following Motion that was unanimously approved by the I-605 Corridor Cities Committee (CCC) on August 26, 2020.

To request a delay to the release of the I-605 EIS/EIR and to incorporate a local option alternative within the document that reflects the Guiding Principles adopted by the SR-91/I-605/I-405 Corridor Cities Committee on October 18, 2007.

The approved motion was taken after learning that the environmental documents for the I-605 expansion project would have contained build alternatives with expansive footprints; taking hundreds of homes in jurisdictions along the corridor. While we understand that the large build alternatives are meant to address policy objectives of the Federal Highway Administration, US Environmental Protection Agency, Caltrans and Metro; moving forward with one of these large build alternatives would have detrimental impacts on our communities, especially during a time where we as a State are grappling with a housing crisis and City's struggle to meet ever increasing Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) numbers.

We are appreciative that releasing the EIR has been delayed to early 2021 as it will allow an opportunity for Caltrans, Metro and Corridor Cities to further discuss the project and determine an optimal solution that addresses the concerns of the Corridor Cities, while also still meeting the majority of goals as set by the aforementioned agencies.

Unfortunately, we recently received communication regarding a recommendation to re-allocate monies dedicated to the I-605 expansion project to elsewhere within the Corridor Cities. As members of the Gateway Cities COG and I-605 CCC, we want to make clear that the Corridor Cities are very supportive of this project and the economic, connectivity, and environmental impacts it will bring to our cities. The do nothing and re-allocate the monies approach is not in the best of interest of our communities and could have harmful impacts for decades to come. The Corridor Cities

Future Unlimited

would like to continue the dialogue with Caltrans and Metro, and urge the use of the approved 2014 Caltrans alternative as a starting point.

Furthermore, the I5 JPA member cities including the cities of Downey, Santa Fe Springs, La Mirada Norwalk and Commerce unanimously support and wish to move forward with a project that includes a locally supported alternative that provides operational benefits and capacity enhancements to the Corridor while minimizing negative impacts. Eliminating all of the negative impacts may not be feasible but minimizing them by not including extra features and full standard dimensions could reduce the footprint size and should be considered since it was developed as the approved 2014 alternative.

We hope that Metro will continue to work collaboratively with the I-605 CCC and individual corridor jurisdictions as well as the Gateway Cities COG to develop details of a reasonable locally supported alternative.

Respectfully,

CITY OF DOWNEY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claudia M. Frometa', written in a cursive style.

Claudia M. Frometa
Mayor Pro Tem
Vice Chair

CC: Downey City Council: asaab@downeyca.org,
bpacheco@downeyca.org, rrodriguez@downecya.org,
sashton@downeyca.org

I-5 JPA Policy Board, yvette@kes-inc.com

Gateway Cities Council of Governments, nancy@gatewaycog.org