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Date: 10/01/2013 12:59 PM
Subject: SR 710 Freeway/Toll Tunnel Extension

Dear Mayor Foster and Council members:

Your discussion of the agenda item tonight about support for the SR 710 fwy/toll tunnels is a chance for your council to not merely pay lip service to good regional transportation projects, but to actually show your Blue Line/Regional Connector/Gold Line partners (Los Angeles, South Pasadena and Pasadena) that you support the extension to Claremont and beyond, by voting NOT to support the SR 710 Extension via a toll tunnel.

Your first priority is to the residents of Long Beach to act in their best interests by showing your support of a beneficial rail project, not some perceived "greater region interests" that would care less about your community's best interests by supporting a project 25 miles away from Long Beach that is detrimental to the cities where it's located and will actually increase 710 traffic and pollution your city.

The facts are that the Measure R money for the SR 710 Gap Closure can be used for the under funded Gold Line extension or Regional Connector downtown. True, this money will not be available for a few years (transfer from highway to rail), and may never be available if the ACE advocates realize their under funded projects (transfer of highway to highway) could immediately transfer this money with a vote of the Metro Board. Additionally, it could get frittered away on studies of a tunnel (already \$40 million being spent on a flawed EIR/EIS) and litigation and never be available. (Speaking of litigation, there has been a federal injunction against this project since 1973 and is still in place.) The time to act is now by passing a resolution against the SR 710 fwy/toll tunnels and support in any way you can, non-highway alternatives to the 710.

The realities of this mega project are that it can never be built. The cities of Los Angeles, South Pasadena and Mayor Bogaard and half of the Pasadena City Council, as well as Glendale, La Canada Flintridge and 40 other community organizations, say NO to the tunnels in **formal resolutions** and letters. In fact, South Pasadena, which already has the 110 fwy first passed a resolution sixty-four years ago against the 710 quartering the city and Los Angeles passed a resolution against any highway or tunnel alternatives last year. **These are the cities where the tunnels/portals will be built, not Alhambra (if you don't believe me, look at a map).**

Supporting a \$14 BILLION boondoggle (see attachment) will do nothing for your city. Long Beach's future is the Blue Line connecting to the Gold Line, not some fantasy highway

project that can never be built even if it could be funded. Voting NO is your only prudent and feasible alternative for the benefit of the citizens of Long Beach.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joanne Nuckols

South Pasadena Transportation Commissioner