

From: "Stevens, Gregory" <gstevens@med.usc.edu>
To: "cityclerk@longbeach.gov" <cityclerk@longbeach.gov>,
Date: 09/30/2013 04:34 PM
Subject: 710 Completion Concerns

Dear Mr. Herrera:

I'm a resident of one of the communities--Highland Park--affected by the extension of the 710 freeway. I writing because I'm concerned that Long Beach is considering a resolution to support the completion of the 710 freeway. While I understand the interest in completing a freeway project that seems necessary, I'm convinced that **this is not the right project for our communities**.

I am a public health professor at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine, and I think there are three important reasons to be concerned about this freeway extension that you and your constituents may not be fully aware of:

1. The 710 extension is being considered to increase the flow of trucking to and from the ports of Long Beach. But this comes at a great cost to our communities as it will **greatly increase the number of trucks traveling through and near our neighborhoods**. Additionally, because the proposed 710 tunnel is expected to be tolled, cars and trucks that might have used the tunnel will likely try to avoid the tolls and stay on local roads. And freeways never stay unjammed for long, meaning that trucks and cars that use the extension will be soon be idling slowly through the tunnels.
2. Freeway expansions are an extremely outdated technology. By attracting more trucking through and near our communities, we would be **increasing the amount of pollution to which people in our community are exposed**. We already know the impact pollution has on our families and children. Research conducted by my colleagues here at USC has shown that the closer families live to a freeway, the more likely their children are to have asthma. And these effects are very relevant to Long Beach. I have a 10-month old child, and your 710 decision would directly impact my family and yours.
3. There are better investments of public money. Measure R funds do not have to be spent on freeways, and **there are great ways to improve goods movement such as through electric rail transport**. In addition, money could also be better spent on **public transportation that young people, like myself, consider vitally important to a community in which we want to live**. For example, money could be spent on making public transportation more accessible and

attracting younger, up-and-coming families to your community. Investments like this represent forward thinking that improves a sense of community, improves business opportunities (as more people like me would consider visiting or locating our families in Long Beach), and improves the environment for everyone.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of these points of view.

-Greg Stevens

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