

Expo Light Rail Line Being Planned Public Comment Needed

The final public "scoping" meeting concerning Phase 2 of the Expo Line Light Rail will be held March 15, 2007.

The project has the potential to be one of the most significant projects in our area.

Only two proposed routes are being studied, although many believe that a third or fourth needs study as well.

The first route is along the Exposition right of way, which starts at Venice and Robertson, proceeds along the south side of the 10, then crosses under the freeway near Motor Avenue. It then proceeds on the north side of the freeway past Overland Elementary, across Overland, Westwood, Military and Sepulveda. It continues along the remainder of the right-of-way to the Santa Monica pier.

In the second route, the train proceeds along Venice until Sepulveda, at which point, it jogs back up to the right of way along Sepulveda.

A third route that has support among many homeowner groups has the train proceed down Venice all the way to Lincoln, just as the former Venice Short Line did decades ago.

Several serious questions have been raised with regard to using the Exposition route. First and foremost is that the rail line would represent a "virtual wall" blocking access to the 10 from the north. The time from gates down to gates up when a train goes by is approximately two minutes. and up to 24 trains pass by during peak hours. Consequently, Overland, Westwood and Sepulveda might be blocked 50 to 60 percent of the time. While a "grade separation," meaning a bridge or tunnel, is being considered for Overland, such a separation is not being considered for the other streets.

The second route solves the problem of blocking traffic to the 10 from the north but introduces a longer train ride and a potential for impacts on Sepulveda.

The third route which uses Venice Blvd. to go all the way to Lincoln Blvd. (and perhaps to Santa Monica) does not impact access to the 10 but may be more costly as more streets may need grade separation. This route also passes through areas which have populations that need access to mass transit. The route includes a higher residential density, a higher employment density, and its residents own fewer vehicles than the residents along the other two routes.

A fourth route that has been discussed would add light rail to the 10 freeway.

If the right-of-way is not used for the Expo line (and Venice Blvd. is used instead), then some have suggested that the sale of the right-of-way land could potentially pay for much, if not all of the project. This could save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Each route has its benefits and drawbacks. What is essential is that each of us ask the MTA to study all alternatives and not just the first two mentioned.

The meeting about the Expo Line will be held on **March 15th at the Vista Del Mar Child and Family Service, 3200 Motor Ave. in the Gym. You can go anytime from 6:30 to 8:30.** There will be no formal presentation, but Metro officials will be available to answer your questions. This is the final public comment meeting before the routes to be studied are selected.

It is VERY important that you attend this meeting to let your voice be heard. If it is impossible to attend, you still can have your voice heard by submitting your written comments to Tract No. 7260. We will forward them to the Metro Line Authority.

We urge you to let the MTA know that at least three options should be studied in detail. It is also urgent that you let the MTA know that blocking traffic heading toward the 10 on ANY of the key streets (Overland, Westwood & Sepulveda) would be highly detrimental to our area.

Send comments via fax to 310-943-1837, or by email to Expo@Tract7260.org.

You can also send your comments directly to the MTA at the following address:
Joel Sanberg P.E., Project Manager,
Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority,
707 Wilshire Blvd. 34th Floor, LA 90034.

The Tract No. 7260 Board has indicated its preference that the Exposition right-of-way not be used for several reasons, with the most significant being that that route would restrict access for many people to the 10 Freeway.

Santa Monica Boulevard Survey Please Submit Your Observations

The Department of Transportation, in conjunction with Tract 7260 and other homeowners associations, is conducting an online survey on the impacts of the Santa Monica Boulevard project on residential streets surrounding the project.

The data gathered from the surveys will be used to allocate money from the \$700,000 fund set up for post-project traffic mitigation.

If you have noticed traffic problems in our area, please take the time to fill out the online survey at WWW.SMBNTM.ORG.

Remember, resources will be allocated based on feedback from the community and on DOT post-project studies on that feedback.

Deadline for Comments: April 1st, 2007

Westside Neighborhood Council Approves \$71,000 In Grants

At its monthly meeting in February, the Westside Neighborhood Council voted tentative approval for the following \$71,000 in grants::

- Overland Elementary School:..... \$9,000
- Westwood Charter School:..... \$9,000
- Public Safety(LAPD/LAFD):..... \$16,000
- Palms/Rancho Park Library:..... \$9,000
- Riddick Youth Center:..... \$8,000
- Sidewalk Repair:..... \$20,000

Liquor Permit Denied

At a February public hearing in West Los Angeles, a hearing officer rejected a request for a liquor permit for the 150-person capacity Shock Lounge a. k. a. Sky Club to be located at the corner of Cotner and La Grange adjacent to the 405 Freeway.

At the hearing, James Dickerson, an owner of the proposed establishment, said that the lounge/ bar would serve more liquor than food, would stay open between 6 p.m. and 2 a.m. seven days a week, would offer no dancing or live music, and would be upscale and attract upscale customers. Dickerson said that the Lounge would help “gentrify” the area.

However, several people who testified at the hearing pointed out that a strip club without a liquor license is located near the proposed lounge location and that its patrons are known to cruise the area searching for late night drinks.

Tract No. 7260’s representative at the hearing said that similar establishments in Century City were the scenes of date rape, rape, assaults, drugs, and prostitution.

At the close of the hearing, the hearing officer withheld the liquor permit saying that the applicant had not presented a clear picture of how the proposed establishment would operate.

Tract No. 7260 HOA
2057 Kerwood Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Resident

Tract No. 7260
Homeowner’s
Association, Inc.



Neighborhood Update

March 2007

Urgent notification
about Expo Light Rail
public meeting inside