

Washington, CEO
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Cc: Metro Board of Directors

Re: Freeway Widening in Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Washington and the Los Angeles Metro Board,

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) urges Los Angeles County Metro Transportation Authority to prioritize equitable capital public transportation expenditures—such as but not limited to the proposed underground ‘subway’ solution in the Sepulveda Transit Corridor—over freeway widening.

Widening freeways and adding lanes often result in negative consequences. Decades of research on the concept of induced demand show that freeway expansions do not alleviate congestion, do not speed up traffic, and do not decrease travel times. Instead, extra lanes draw in more drivers, who shift away from other modes like public transit.

These consequences run contrary to Metro’s climate and equity goals. Freeway widening, in fact, does the opposite of Metro’s own stated goals - they further pollute our air, warm our planet, and make our society more unequal. These projects force long-time residents from their homes and demolish houses near freeways. These communities deserve recompense, not more bulldozing.

SONC requests Metro select this equitable fully-underground heavy rail proposal in the Sepulveda Transit Corridor and to refrain from accepting or supporting any project that will evict residents from their homes.

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Sincerely,
[INSERT NAME]
[INSERT TITLE]