

RESOLUTION NO. 10-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE OPPOSING THE TUNNEL ALTERNATIVE TO THE EXTENSION OF THE SR-710 FREEWAY BETWEEN THE I-10 AND THE I-210 FREEWAYS AS WELL AS THE STATE-ADOPTED SURFACE ALTERNATIVE AND CALLING ON METRO, CALTRANS AND SCAG TO FIND NEW AND EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO RESOLVE CONGESTION

WHEREAS, surface streets in Alhambra, South Pasadena and Pasadena between the I-10 and the I-210 suffer from significant congestion as do all southern California freeways; and

WHEREAS, a viable regional solution for this congestion must be found; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, the State of California adopted the highway surface route (the "surface alternative") extending north from the SR-710 freeway to the I-210 freeway; and

WHEREAS, the City of South Pasadena, has filed many objections, injunctions and lawsuits in an ongoing dispute over the surface alternative; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Caltrans and the FHWA determined that consideration of a tunnel as an alternative to the surface alternative was appropriate; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Metro released its "Route 710 Tunnel Technical Feasibility Assessment Report," declaring the tunnel to be a "feasible" alternative and stating that environmental considerations could be "minimized, eliminated or mitigated;" and

WHEREAS, the City of La Cañada Flintridge submitted comments and objections to Metro, stating, in part, that there was insufficient evidence in the report to make such a finding, and the study, as well as its conclusion was flawed, since very little environmental study was conducted; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 and 2008, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and Metro individually included the tunnel as a priority project within their adopted Regional Transportation Plans, thereby demonstrating that the potential project had been chosen as the primary, as well as the most costly, project to resolve the congestion problems which exist in the subject region; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Caltrans and Metro began their "SR-710 Tunnel Technical Study," a study which was to be "route-neutral" and which would study technical feasibility, particularly geotechnical feasibility; and

WHEREAS, the "SR-710 Tunnel Technical Study" final draft was completed in March 2009 with the City submitting comments and objections to Caltrans and Metro regarding this study, stating in part, that the study does not contain sufficient review of the information obtained; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Metro passed an ordinance to place Measure R on the ballot, including a proposed allocation of \$780 million for the tunnel, despite that the proposed tunnel project had not undergone proper CEQA review. The Measure was subsequently approved by the voters by a narrow margin; and

WHEREAS, based upon the Southern California Association of Governments "SR-710 Missing Link Truck Study" (Preliminary Final Draft) (released in 2009); if the tunnel is completed: (1) 75% of local surface streets would still be gridlocked, operating over capacity with severe congestion, with at least twelve arterial streets experiencing higher traffic volumes solely due to the tunnel (2) the tunnel would cause significant detrimental traffic and truck impacts on the I-210 freeway through the cities of Glendale, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge and the community of La Crescenta (more than a 25% increase in daily volumes on I-210; an additional 30,000 vehicles per day on I-210; 850 additional trucks in the PM peak hour on I-210; truck percentage will increase from 11% to over 20%); and since portions of the I-210 will operate at Level of Service (LOS) F, traffic will be forced onto local streets; and (3) the tunnel connection would make overall driving conditions worse regionally (motorists would be driving farther and spending more time on the road); and

WHEREAS, based upon the Metro "Route 710 Tunnel Technical Feasibility Assessment Report" (2006), the tunnel is projected to be gridlocked soon after completion; and

WHEREAS, based upon a variety of University of Southern California (USC) studies, including the USC California Children's Health Study, due to a lack of substantive reduction of gridlock (as found by other studies), most of the residents south of the tunnel would continue to be impacted by respiratory problems associated with pollution. In addition, the residents along the I-210 freeway would have increased gridlock, and experience an increase in respiratory problems, particularly affecting the lungs of children and other residents along the freeway; and

WHEREAS, the projected cost to design and construct the tunnel is several billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, this project is out of proportion and far exceeds the small or nonexistent public benefit that would be derived from this project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of La Cañada Flintridge opposes any approval or expenditure of funds related to the proposed SR-710 tunnel project and the state-adopted surface alternative, neither of which have passed CEQA review, and finds that both alternatives are ineffective, 20th-century solutions for the existing regional congestion problems, which require 21st-century solutions.

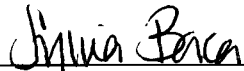
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Cañada Flintridge calls on Metro, Caltrans and SCAG to find other new, effective alternatives to these projects, including those alternatives using rail as the mode of transportation, which will truly solve the region's congestion problems.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 29th Day of March, 2010.



Laura Olhasso, Mayor

ATTEST:



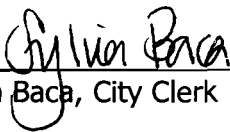
Sylvia Baca, City Clerk

State of California)
County of Los Angeles) ss.
City of La Cañada Flintridge)

I, Sylvia Baca, City Clerk of the City of La Cañada Flintridge, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 10-12 was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of La Cañada Flintridge at a Special Meeting held on the 29th day of March 2010, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Brown, Del Guercio, Spence, Voss, Olhasso
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: None
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: None
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: None

Dated: June 7, 2010



Sylvia Baca, City Clerk