



November 9, 2011

Ms. Dolores Roybal Saltarelli, AICP  
And Regional Connector Team, Metro  
One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-2  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

**RE: Proposed Regional Connector Project – Supplemental EA/Recirculated Draft EIR**

Dear Ms. Saltarelli:

At our regularly held public meeting on November 8, 2011, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) voted to submit the following comments regarding the proposed Regional Connector project, in connection with your circulation of the July 22, 2011 Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Recirculated sections of the Draft Environmental Impact Report, pursuant to the motions passed on September 20, 2011 and October 18, 2011, by DLANC’s Planning & Land Use Committee.

DLANC is strongly supportive of the Regional Connector project, and believes it is critical for mobility within Downtown and throughout the evolving Metro transit system. We urge Metro to make the funding and construction of the Regional Connector project a top priority, as it will establish a true hub to the growing light-rail network in Southern California, enabling many more transit users to reach destinations around the County by linking the Expo, Blue and Gold Lines. In addition, the Project will enhance “last mile” transportation within several of Downtown’s densest districts by improving connectivity to many other existing and planned transit options within the Downtown area.

As Metro continues the environmental review and preliminary engineering processes for the Project, we encourage Metro to consider refinements that improve the feasibility and cost-efficiency of the Regional Connector. If any of those refinements are demonstrated to reduce the costs and environmental impacts of the Project, they should be pursued to ensure that the Regional Connector is built as expeditiously as possible.

Further, Metro should continue to improve its station designs as the Project moves forward. In that regard, DLANC asks Metro to consider the comments submitted by Los Angeles City Councilmember José Huizar regarding the Broadway station location and plaza, as well as the Second and Hope Street station. The Broadway station will be a key gateway to the historic Broadway commercial and entertainment district, and the Bunker Hill station will serve one of the City’s most important office and cultural centers. Both stations should be developed in a manner that maximizes their integration into these pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods.

Finally, DLANC concurs with Councilmember Huizar's recommendation that Metro re-convene the Urban Design Working Group for the Regional Connector Project. That group can provide a critical forum for stakeholders to provide input and ensure that Metro's development of the Regional Connector leverages the significant public and private sector investments in Downtown's varied neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Very truly yours,



Patricia Berman  
DLANC President

Very truly yours,



Shiraz D. Tangri  
DLANC Planning & Land Use Committee Co-Chair

CC: Hon. Jan Perry (Council District 9 c/o Marie Rumsey)  
Hon. José Huizar (Council District 14 c/o Jessica Wethington McLean)