

Dear Metro Board,

The Solutions Alameda Coalition comprises the below signed property owners, businesses, residents, and community groups advocating for the undergrounding of Metro's West Santa Ana Branch through Downtown LA.

We thank you for your continued focus and efforts on envisioning and building a transit line connecting Downtown LA to cities in Southeast Los Angeles County. As you know, this corridor represents one of the greatest opportunities in the region to expand economic opportunity and equity for disadvantaged communities and to create a truly world-class and functional transit experience that provides a seamless way for a large number of Angelenos to get to their place of employment from their homes.

The Downtown Los Angeles portion of the proposed West Santa Ana Branch represents an even rarer opportunity – the ability to add hundreds of thousands of residential units, including much-needed affordable housing, with zero displacement in a job- and transit-rich area. Currently, the corridor around Alameda between the 10 Freeway to the south and approximately Little Tokyo to the north is comprised of large-scale development parcels that house distribution, warehousing, surface parking lots, and other low-intensity non-residential uses.

In contrast to other segments of the WSAB line, the DTLA portion is uniquely primed for housing growth because it is an appropriate location for density without causing any residential displacement. The sheer number and intensity of new housing units contemplated for this corner of Downtown LA dwarfs the combined expected housing production plans of all the other municipalities along the planned route. The City of LA's DTLA2040 Community Plan envisions a dense, walkable, bikeable, equitable, and opportunity-rich neighborhood. It is our strong belief that the public transit infrastructure we build must match that vision and meet the needs of the communities it is meant to serve.

Specifically, our coalition believes that an underground alignment will achieve our collective transportation, housing, and environmental goals, while at the same time cultivating sustained, equitable economic growth.

The DTLA portion of the West Santa Ana Branch was initially conceived as and envisioned to be underground. This makes sense, as the line runs through what is planned to be one of the densest communities in the entire region. A below-grade alignment increases opportunities for improving the Alameda streetscape by adding bike lanes, inviting sidewalks, increased landscaping, and new retail opportunities.

We understand Metro staff's exercise to reduce the cost of the WSAB line. While we share the concern about the rising budget for infrastructure projects, we do not believe WSAB cost-cutting measures should come at the expense of the greater DTLA community and imperil the future growth of this area.

The above-grade concept will not only increase traffic and noise, but it will physically divide neighborhoods. This reinforces historical redlining practices that produced many of the inequities we see across our region today. An above-grade alignment through DTLA calls into question the values of our city, county, and region.

Our coalition is investing in solutions. We are in the process of conducting outreach to community stakeholders and commissioning visioning studies that will demonstrate how powerful a below-grade

alignment could be through DTLA. We also have conducted a preliminary analysis of local funding sources to examine how we can collectively imagine, accelerate, and execute an alignment that allows DTLA to prosper.

Our coalition is committed to not only advocacy, but partnership, in ensuring that we build a WSAB line that matches the vision and needs of our DTLA community.

In both our and Metro's outreach, we have yet to hear from a single stakeholder in the area who supports an above-grade alignment. We strongly and collectively urge you to approve a below-grade alignment because it is the only viable solution for the future of the entirety of DTLA.

Sincerely,

The Solutions Alameda Coalition

(Insert Names of Orgs)