

Motion

Directors Hahn, Burke and Molina

In its early planning phases, the Exposition Light Rail project contemplated the use of one of the MTA rights-of-way as a “non-revenue connector”, linking the proposed Exposition light rail project and the Long Beach Blue Line. Due to community opposition and further technical analysis, this alternative is no longer under consideration. As a result, there are no plans for this right-of-way in the MTA Short or Long Range Transportation Plans.

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is planning to build an elementary school near this right-of-way. The proposed site that is preferred by LAUSD staff contemplates the acquisition of several residential parcels, and has generated significant community concerns and opposition. As an alternative, members of the community have advocated for the possible use of two sites through which this right-of-way passes, thereby reducing the negative impacts of residential acquisition. We do recognize that the Exposition right-of-way is an important rail asset for the County, especially given the complexity of locating transit infrastructure here. Nevertheless, given that there are alternative plans under consideration that may obviate the need to use this right-of-way, there should be a way to work with the community and with LAUSD to arrive at a school site proposal that would spare this community the loss of housing.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE:

That the Board instruct MTA representatives to meet with LAUSD and members of the community to determine the feasibility of building a school on or near the MTA Exposition rail right-of-way and report back to the Board within the next sixty days.

