

CITIZENS' CAMPAIGN TO FIX THE EXPO RAIL LINE

Led by Save Leimert, Expo Communities United & Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw Homeowners' Coalition
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THE SOUTH LA COMMUNITY'S ISSUES WITH PHASE 1 OF THE EXPO RAIL LINE

On the currently abandoned railroad tracks on Exposition Blvd, the MTA is attempting to build a 225-ton train, like the Blue Line, from Downtown LA to Culver City (Phase 1) & eventually to Santa Monica (Phase 2). It will run primarily at street-level in South LA, at 35 & 55 mph, including **55 mph just 10 feet from Dorsey HS** where students cross the tracks **1,800 times per day**. It will travel **within 50 feet of 7 schools, including Foshay**, and within walking distance of over two-dozen schools & parks. The train is planned to operate 22 hours a day, **crossing an intersection every 2 – 2.5 mins during rush hour!** For the safety of our children & sake of our community tell MTA if they want to build the Expo Line they need to build it correctly through South LA: **UNDERGROUND!**

- **SAFETY - We will NOT negotiate the safety of our children.**

Our children face enough safety risks walking to school. Forcing them to cross 2 sets of tracks with a high-speed, frequently running train is not acceptable. The train is designed like the Blue Line, which at **90 deaths & over 821 accidents** is the deadliest most accident-prone light rail line in the US! Among the deaths and injuries are over a dozen children and young adults, like the 14-year old young boy, who in 2007 was killed by a Blue Line train that was carrying his closest sister. The LAUSD, United Teachers Los Angeles, & Parent Collaborative have made formal objections to the unsafe design of the line, as over **20,000 – 30,000 youths** are within walking distance of the tracks. Of particular concern are Dorsey & Foshay (Western Ave). Western, like Crenshaw, Vermont & Normandie has no crossing gates. The many safety hazards at the intersections should have resulted in "grade separations" (an underpass or overpass), but did not. A deadly calculation has been made to not invest in total grade separation.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM – If Culver City children won't have to walk across tracks, why should ours?**

As stated in the federal government's document on Expo, MTA's original plan had all street-level crossings in Culver City, but Culver City negotiated overpasses at their streets. As a result, in the 1 mile west of La Cienega no train horn will ever be blown, no streets will be closed to vehicular traffic, and no car & no child will ever have to cross the tracks with 225-ton trains coming at 35 & 55 mph. This is the exact opposite of how Expo Line will impact South LA. In fact, **MTA is spending more money in the 1 MILE from La Cienega to Robertson than they are in THE ENTIRE 4.5 MILES in South LA from Vermont to Clyde** (1 block east of La Cienega)! MTA expects South LA to accept less investment, more negative impacts, deaths & injuries, while not expecting it west of La Cienega to Robertson.

- **IT'S ABOUT PRIORITIES NOT MONEY – If MTA can spend the money for overpasses in Culver City and an underpass at Figueroa by USC, they can spend the money in South LA!**

MTA has the money to build the Expo Line underground in South LA. In July '07, when the state legislature took \$314 million from their budget, it took MTA just 2 WEEKS to lobby for the money to be returned. California passed Prop 1B in Nov. '06, which had \$4-6 billion for rail. The Fix Expo Campaign has requested MTA go after Prop 1B money to put the Expo Line underground in our community, only to see \$218 million of the bond be allocated for the Expo Line for everything except grade separations in South LA. This issue is about political priorities, not money. **Elected officials don't consider the safety of South LA people and preservation of South LA communities a priority.**

- **TRAFFIC CONGESTION – Transportation projects aren't supposed to make traffic worse!**

The closure of over a dozen side streets, elimination of some left turns, & placement of crossing gates (e.g. Arlington) will increase traffic on our already clogged streets & **cut off emergency service access up to 25 mins per hour.**

- **NOISE POLLUTION –** Every time the **240-300 trains per day** cross an intersection at street-level it must blow it's horn or ring it's bell. **Nearly 1,000 train horns per day** will be heard at some South LA intersections, which are in the middle of residential areas, and next to learning environments and places of worship.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- 1) COPY THIS FLYER:** MTA is spreading misinformation about the project. Talk to your neighbors & spread the truth.
- 2) CALL THE POLITICIANS:** Mayor Villaraigosa, Bernard Parks, Perry, Yvonne Burke & Wesson are directly responsible.
- 3) DONATE:** We need your financial assistance to continue delivering the facts about the Expo Line and to bring our community together to win this epic struggle. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation online at www.FixExpo.org or sending a contribution to: "Fix Expo c/o UCA" (mail to: P. O. Box 781267 Los Angeles, CA 90016)
- 4) GET INVOLVED:** The Fix Expo Campaign is an all-volunteer effort that meets in the community. For our next meeting date, time and location call our hotline at **(323) 761-6435** or visit us on the web at **www.FixExpo.org**.