



Capital Projects and Construction Committee San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments



4900 Rivergrade Rd. Ste. A120 Irwindale, CA 91706 (626) 962-9292 fax (626) 962-3552 www.theaceproject.org

August 21, 2019

Ms. Lucy Pedregon
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Pedregon:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You questioned whether a roadway overpass is justified given the availability of alternate routes when the crossing is blocked by trains and expressed dissatisfaction with community outreach and the format of the meeting.

You may be interested to know that the project is ranked no. 6 on the 2019-2020 statewide priority list of 36 grade separation projects nominated for funding from the California Public Utilities Commission. This priority ranking results from high vehicle and train traffic counts as well as an extensive record of collisions at the crossing, which resulted in three fatalities. The roadway overpass will eliminate crossing collisions as well as an estimated 89 minutes of traffic delay each day at the railroad crossing for 13,654 vehicles per day on Turnbull Canyon Road, projected to increase to 15,110 vehicles by 2025. Grade separating Turnbull Canyon Road will result in a cessation of routine locomotive horn blasts at the crossing.

Regarding the meeting format, it is not intended to isolate community concerns but to provide an efficient and individualized forum for simultaneously soliciting and responding to multiple and diverse questions and concerns from the community. We believe the meeting was effective in documenting diverse community views and concerns as shown in the meeting summary report which will be posted on the project webpage: <https://www.theaceproject.org/turnbull-canyon-road-industry-los-a>.

We hope this information is helpful and responds to your concerns. If you have additional questions, please contact Community Relations Manager Ricky Choi at (626) 962-9292, ext. 154 or rchoi@theaceproject.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Christoffels".

Mark Christoffels
Chief Engineer



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August 21, 2019

Mr. Phil and Mrs. Caroline Trujillo



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Trujillo:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You noted your concerns regarding the potential for increased truck traffic on Valencia Avenue as a cut-through route as well as for the project to attract the homeless and the impact on property values.

Trucks exceeding a maximum size are prohibited from using residential streets unless designated by local traffic authorities as a truck route. Our project team will work with city and county staff to evaluate whether additional signing or enforcement measures need to be implemented in surrounding residential streets as we develop and refine the Traffic Management Plan for the project. We will evaluate the project design to determine if additional measures need to be taken to ensure public safety and on completion of the project will request local law enforcement to monitor and respond to the potential homeless issue. As for property values, a published study concluded that residential property values increase when a rail crossing is grade separated, primarily due to the elimination of train horn noise¹.

We hope this information is helpful and responds to your concerns. If you have additional questions, please contact Community Relations Manager Ricky Choi at (626) 962-9292, ext. 154 or rchoi@theaceproject.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Christoffels".

Mark Christoffels
Chief Engineer

¹ Bellinger, William, (2006). The Economic Valuation of Train Horn Noise: A US Case Study. Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment, Volume 11, Issue 4, pp 310-314.



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August 21, 2019

Mr. Paul Wong
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Wong:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You questioned whether the accident history and traffic delay benefits justified the cost of the project. You also expressed concern for pedestrian safety at the Turnbull Canyon Road and Gale Avenue intersection due to the potential increase in truck traffic on Turnbull Canyon Road upon completion of the project.

The roadway underpass on Turnbull Canyon Road will eliminate an estimated 89 minutes of traffic delay each day at the railroad crossing resulting from about 25 trains per day. Turnbull Canyon Road carries 13,654 vehicles per day, which is projected to increase to 15,110 vehicles by 2025. In addition to improving traffic congestion, the project will also eliminate crossing collisions and delays for emergency responders. The Federal Railroad Administration has recorded 14 collisions at the crossing, including three fatalities. Without this project, there will be growing train and vehicle traffic that will result in increasing congestion, worsening air quality and noise, and perpetuating unsafe conditions, as trains get longer and their frequency increase.

Our project team will work with city staff and local law enforcement to evaluate and determine whether additional measures need to be taken to ensure public safety at the Turnbull Canyon Road and Gale Avenue intersection. Currently, there are pedestrian traffic signals and marked controlled crosswalks at the intersection.

We hope this information is helpful and responds to your concerns. If you have additional questions, please contact Community Relations Manager Ricky Choi at (626) 962-9292, ext. 154 or rchoi@theaceproject.org.

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Chief Engineer



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August 21, 2019

Mr. Paul Spitzzeri
Homestead Museum



Dear Mr. Spitzzeri:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You noted your support for the project and suggested parking and truck access restriction on cul-de-sacs and along frontage roads on Turnbull Canyon Road. In addition, you expressed concern regarding possible homeless encampments under the overpass bridge.

Our project team will work with city and county staff as design progresses to determine whether parking and truck traffic restrictions are warranted and feasible in order to maintain safe and orderly traffic flow. In addition, we will inform and coordinate with the Los Angeles County Supervisors and Sheriff's offices to ensure public safety relating to potential homeless encampments and cut-through traffic.

We hope this information is helpful and responds to your concerns. If you have additional questions, please contact Community Relations Manager Ricky Choi at (626) 962-9292, ext. 154 or rchoi@theaceproject.org.

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Mark Christoffels
Chief Engineer



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August 21, 2019

Ms. Judith Rader
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Rader:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You noted your concerns that the project could result in increased truck traffic, questioned the community benefits and expressed your opinion that trains do not excessively delay vehicle traffic at the crossing.

We can appreciate your concern regarding traffic congestion resulting from heavy truck traffic. We will keep those concerns and observations in mind as we develop the project's traffic management plan and will consult with Los Angeles County and City of Industry traffic engineers to determine whether traffic signal adjustments to improve traffic flow at Turnbull Canyon Road and Gale Avenue are warranted.

You may be interested to know that the project is ranked no. 6 on the 2019-2020 statewide priority list of 36 grade separation projects nominated for funding from the California Public Utilities Commission. This priority ranking results from high vehicle and train traffic counts as well as an extensive record of collisions at the crossing, which resulted in three fatalities. The roadway overpass will eliminate crossing collisions as well as an estimated 89 minutes of traffic delay each day at the railroad crossing for 13,654 vehicles per day on Turnbull Canyon Road, projected to increase to 15,110 vehicles by 2025. Grade separating Turnbull Canyon Road will result in a cessation of routine locomotive horn blasts at the crossing.

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Chief Engineer



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August 21, 2019

Mr. Joel Ring
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Ring:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You requested that we provide you with the responses to the comment cards submitted at the meeting.

We have summarized all the comments cards and the agency responses in a report to the County of Los Angeles and City of Industry a link to which will be posted on the project webpage: <https://www.theaceproject.org/turnbull-canyon-road-industry-los-a>

We hope this information is helpful and responds to your concerns. If you have additional questions, please contact Community Relations Manager Ricky Choi at (626) 962-9292, ext. 154 or rchoi@theaceproject.org.

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Chief Engineer



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August 21, 2019

Ms. Joanne Garcia
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Garcia:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You requested that we provide you with future information about the project.

We will include your email address on our list of those who receive our quarterly electronic newsletter which will provide periodic information about the project.

We hope this information is helpful and responds to your concerns. If you have additional questions, please contact Community Relations Manager Ricky Choi at (626) 962-9292, ext. 154 or rchoi@theaceproject.org.

Sincerely,

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Mark Christoffels
Chief Engineer



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August 21, 2019

Mr. Jim Crabtree
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You noted your concerns that upon completion of the project the cul-de-sac on the south side of Turnbull Canyon Road could attract homeless encampments, illegal parking and street racing. You suggested these activities could be mitigated with additional law enforcement and no-parking restrictions from Clark Avenue to the cul-de-sac.

Our project team will work with city staff and local law enforcement to evaluate and determine whether additional signing, parking restrictions and patrolling need to be implemented to ensure public safety, as you suggest. We will be in communication with local law enforcement upon completion of the project to monitor the potential homeless issue and determine whether additional measures need to be taken.

We hope this information is helpful and responds to your concerns. If you have additional questions, please contact Community Relations Manager Ricky Choi at (626) 962-9292, ext. 154 or rchoi@theaceproject.org.

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Chief Engineer



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August 21, 2019

Mr. Jeffrey Lin
Lindex Inc.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Lin:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You noted your support for the project and for completing construction of it expeditiously.

Once a construction contract is awarded at the end of 2020, we will work with the selected construction contractor on a schedule to complete the project as efficiently as possible while delivering value and minimizing construction impacts and inconveniences to the public. We anticipate that construction will take approximately 36 months and we will maintain detour routes and local access to residences and businesses while Turnbull Canyon Road is closed for construction.

We hope this information is helpful and responds to your concerns. If you have additional questions, please contact Community Relations Manager Ricky Choi at (626) 962-9292, ext. 154 or rchoi@theaceproject.org.

Sincerely,

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Chief Engineer



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August 21, 2019

Mr. Dave and Cee DeLoye
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. and Mrs. DeLoye:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You requested that we provide you with the responses to the comment cards submitted at the meeting.

We have summarized all the comments cards and the agency responses in a report to the County of Los Angeles and City of Industry a link to which will be posted on the project webpage: <https://www.theaceproject.org/turnbull-canyon-road-industry-los-a>

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Chief Engineer



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August 21, 2019

Ms. Beatriz Ricartti
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Ricartti:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You noted the importance of community input as design of the project progresses.

The purpose of the open house meeting was to provide the community with information about the project and to solicit their input during the final design and engineering phase. We are addressing the concerns and issues brought to our attention at the meeting as well as providing a written report to the County of Los Angeles and the City of Industry. Community outreach remains important as we develop the project and we will notify Community Open House attendees and stakeholders if there are design revisions of significance.

We hope this information is helpful and responds to your concerns. If you have additional questions, please contact Community Relations Manager Ricky Choi at (626) 962-9292, ext. 154 or rchoi@theaceproject.org.

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Chief Engineer



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August 21, 2019

Mr. Art Ledezma
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Ledezma:

Thank you for submitting a written comment card at the Community Open House meeting for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project held on July 17, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. You noted your support for the proposed overpass and inquired about possible expanded commuter rail service in the region to help alleviate traffic congestion and improve air quality.

We appreciate your support for the Turnbull Canyon Road Grade Separation Project and share your support for expanded passenger rail service. We are pleased to report that the regional Metrolink passenger rail system in Southern California has been experiencing record ridership and has plans to increase future service. For details, please see <https://www.metrolinktrains.com/news/metrolink-news/> and <https://www.metrolinktrains.com/about/agency/strategic-plan/>. In the San Gabriel Valley, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments recently concurred in funding that permitted the award of a contract to construct an extension of the Foothill Gold Line from Azusa to Pomona.

We hope this information is helpful and responds to your concerns. If you have additional questions, please contact Community Relations Manager Ricky Choi at (626) 962-9292, ext. 154 or rchoi@theaceproject.org.

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Chief Engineer