

SUGGESTED LETTER TO MTA:

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa, the official LA City Chartered advisory organization for the communities of Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista thanks the MTA for attending our board meeting on August 4 to inform us that the Crenshaw Corridor Line Light Rail is slated to go through eastern Westchester and that release of an EIS/EIR is imminent.

Our organization supports the development of an effective light rail system throughout the region and expects it to be supported with a feeder bus system resulting in convenient public transit for Southern California.

We have reviewed the portion of the subject project in our community and make the following general reservations and recommendations for further study by MTA before the project is finalized and approved:

1. A stop near Century/Aviation coinciding with a proposed LAX airport multi-modal project is desirable and appropriate.
2. Adversely impacting major highway/street traffic with at-grade crossings is unacceptable.
3. Train station accessibility should be as convenient to riders as possible with the minimum impacts on local businesses and residences.
4. Train operations near residential communities should be as quiet and air non-polluting as possible. We expect effective use of tussling and sound walls near our community.

Specific comments and recommendations regarding the proposed park and ride station and proposed maintenance yard in the Westchester area bounded by Osage on the west, 83rd Street on the north, LaCienega on the east, and Florence on the south:

1. The proposed “kiss and ride” at Hindry/Florence is far from optimal. It is adjacent to single family homes, currently contains community serving businesses, and a fifty year landmark operation in Westchester, the Kentwood Playhouse. An alternative station site could be located just south of the Manchester/Aviation/Florence intersection where, unlike Florence which has no bus service, has an established bus route which is significantly utilized. This proposed location will not adversely impact residences. This location is populated by commercial shippers and undeveloped land around/near the MTA right of way. Further, a Manchester station would be more convenient for travelers from the rest of our community.
2. Closure of Hindry Avenue at Florence for either a station or proposed maintenance yard is unacceptable. This street is one of the few egresses of that community. Any station near that intersection would cause increased cut through, neighborhood traffic onto the few remaining egresses.

3. The proposed station site near Hindry was once the location for a metal plating and fabrication facility that is under investigation by the DTSC. It is known to be a polluted area which will need extensive mitigation.

4. Whereas details of the proposed maintenance yard are sketchy at best, we oppose this location and recommend that it be located in a more commercial oriented area.

We look forward to working more closely with MTA in the future as this project becomes more fully defined.

Sincerely,

President

Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa