

Hundreds of LA County Citizens will March in South Pasadena's 4th of July Parade to oppose Metro's \$12 Billion 710 freeway toll tunnel project.

With Seattle's "Big Bertha" SR-99 multi-billion dollar project stalled, and Boston's "Big Dig" topping \$24 billion over seven times its original cost, LA County tax payers will march to continue their fight against Metro's 710 Freeway Toll Tunnel proposal.

Recognizing both Seattle and Boston's "Big Dig" tunnel projects have sent their regions billions of dollars into debt and severely impacted their regional transportation budgets, citizens and select city officials from La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Sierra Madre, Glendale, Burbank, Pasadena, San Marino, Monterey Park, and the Los Angeles communities of El Sereno, Silverlake, Sunland-Tujunga, Glassell Park, Mt. Washington, Highland Park, Eagle Rock and from across the L.A. County region will join South Pasadena as they march in their Festival of Balloons 4th of July Parade, Friday July 4th to halt Metro's costly 710 tunnel project and consider rail and non-freeway alternatives for moving people and goods. Residents seek to avoid repeating Seattle and Boston's mistakes and the risk of becoming the West Coast's biggest public works boondoggle in U.S. History.

Also marching will be former California State Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, who is campaigning for a California State Senate seat. "We still don't know the cost, the benefit, and they [Metro] are still trying to sell the public a bill of goods that if you bring more cars and trucks into the neighborhood that somehow pollution will decrease," said Portantino prior to the march. "Any third grader knows that more cars and more trucks equals more traffic and more pollution. These guys (Metro) still won't come clean on that basic fact." Portantino insists Metro has not put one credible financial or traffic model on the table or shown environmental evidence to substantiate "one claim they are making," he said. "The taxpayer deserves better, the residents of the San Gabriel Valley deserve better." South Pasadena has fought the extension of the 710 freeway through its community seven times longer than the American Revolution and over half of it's 125 yr existence as an incorporated city. Now that Alhambra's city officials have stated a pro-tunnel position, "Responsible Alhambrans Against the 710" has committed to join the No 710 march in this year's parade.

(More at: alhambriansagainst710.com)

The \$12 billion estimate is based on the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2007 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) estimating the cost to complete the 710 tunnels at \$11.8 billion and alternative estimates go as high as \$14 billion (Source: Metro's tunnel expert Dr. Eisenstein, 2004).

Since 1947, The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), Caltrans and it's predecessors have proposed, studied and advocated for the building of a freeway through the heart of South Pasadena's historic community. The proposed freeway route would extend the 710 Freeway from the 10 Freeway in the Los Angeles community of El Sereno at the Alhambra border to the 210 Freeway in Pasadena.

The latest freeway proposal is to bore two 4.9 mile tunnels underneath Los Angeles' community of El Sereno, South Pasadena and Pasadena and make it a tollway, threatening to divert additional traffic and pollution onto residential streets.

We support: Scrapping the costly 710 tunnel proposal and instead expand rail solutions for people and goods movement.

- **Caltrans rates the proposed tunnel as an F "No Build" Project**
- **Roadway tolls are a regressive tax, and many projects end in bankruptcy**
- **Safety is compromised in tunnels**
- **Significant health risks from the tunnel will affect an entire region**
- **California needs realistic projects that create jobs and not endless studies to nowhere**

Focusing on moving people in the 710 corridor and throughout the San Gabriel Valley should be a priority for neighbors, communities and building tradesmen and women to unite behind. There are needs but limited funds. Let's use our resources wisely to solve problems and put people to work. We should not be wasting \$780 million of Measure R funds on planners and lawyers over the next decade and end up with nothing to show for it.

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