

Washington, CEO
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Cc: Metro Board of Directors

Re: Freeway Widenings in Los Angeles County

Dear Mr. Washington and the Los Angeles Metro Board,

The [INSERT] Neighborhood Council opposes all further freeway widening projects in Los Angeles County, including any that may be in progress. Freeway widening is harmful to nearby communities, counterproductive to reducing traffic, deeply inequitable, and a waste of our taxpayer dollars.

Widening freeways and adding lanes do not accomplish anything positive. Decades of research on [the concept of induced demand](#) show that freeway expansions do not alleviate congestion, do not speed up traffic, and do not decrease travel times. Instead, extra lanes draw in more drivers, who shift away from other modes like public transit.

All of these consequences run contrary to Metro's climate and equity goals. Freeway widenings, in fact, do the opposite of Metro's own stated goals - they further pollute our air, warm our planet, and make our society more unequal.

Freeway expansions also disproportionately harm communities of color and low-income residents who live nearby. These projects force long-time residents from their homes and demolish houses near freeways, in a direct continuation of the racist practices of urban renewal that should have ended years ago. On top of that, the remaining residents near the widened freeway are at higher risk of asthma and other conditions caused by exposure to vehicle emissions. These communities deserve recompense, not even more bulldozing.

The [INSERT] Neighborhood Council urges Metro (and any joint powers authorities with which Metro is associated) to **stop widening freeways anywhere in L.A. County**, both near our neighborhood and in other areas. Metro should also oppose any Caltrans freeway widening projects and cease providing or lending them funds and materials to execute them.

Sincerely,
[INSERT NAME]

[INSERT TITLE]LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: Tax credit or rebate for Rain Tanks