

CITY OF HAWTHORNE



4455 West 126th Street • Hawthorne, California 90250-4482

Department of Public Works, Engineering Division

Office: (310) 349-2980/ Fax: (310) 978-9862

October 24, 2023

Los Angeles County MTA Board
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop: 99-22-3
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Email: greenlineextension@metro.net

RE: LA METRO TRANSIT LETTER OF SUPPORT – C-LINE (GREEN) EXTENSION TO TORRANCE – HAWTHORNE BLVD OPTION (ELEVATED)

Dear Honorable L.A. County Metro Board Members:

The City of Hawthorne submits this letter in support of the Metro C-Line (Green) Extension to Torrance project via the Hawthorne Blvd Elevated Option. This alignment would garner 35% more ridership than any other alignment and would provide a much-needed rail connection between LA County and the South Bay, attract new riders, and reduce travel times.

This project will provide an extension of the C-Line from where it currently ends at the Redondo Beach Station Marine Station to Torrance, where the city recently opened the Mary K. Giordano Regional Transit Center. This is an important piece of the regional rail network to connect the South Bay, a growing jobs center, with other cities and neighborhoods in L.A. County via light rail transit. The Project will also connect to two new regional bus centers in Redondo Beach and Torrance, expanding access to the South Bay region. With the new operating pattern of the K Line, this Project will allow for a one-seat ride between Torrance, LAX, Inglewood and further connections to the Westside and Downtown Los Angeles via the Metro E Line.

The South Bay suffers from congested streets and lack of rapid transportation options, resulting in long travel times for drivers and transit riders alike. Congestion is projected to worsen by 30% in 2045. The Project will create a fast and reliable transportation option to connect people by rail to jobs, schools, and services across the County with benefits concentrated in many Equity-Focused Communities that will be linked along the Metro C and K Lines. The Hawthorne Elevated Option would show riders that they are moving faster than the logjammed traffic on the adjacent I-405 Freeway, then take them down the Hawthorne Blvd commercial corridor to the new South Bay Social District. The success of the South Bay Social District and the C-Line extension to Torrance are mutually dependent on collocating next to one another along Hawthorne Blvd. It would open the door to eliminating the freight train running through Lawndale's Green belt (Metro ROW), securing more open space and a potential bike bath, furthering our shared goal of a greener and more connected region.

Additionally, the existing jobs/housing imbalance is projected to worsen in the coming decades with employment growing twice as fast as the population in the South Bay. The Project would help to reduce 49,000 vehicle miles per day and result in a net reduction of 2,369 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year in 2042.

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The Project would serve between 11,500 and 15,600 daily project trips in 2042. This equates to around 5,700 to 7,800 daily boardings per station, which is similar to the Metro B (Red) and E (Expo) Line average daily boardings in 2019 of 8,600 and 3,300 daily boardings, respectively. The Hawthorne Blvd Elevated Option would also deliver residents from Redondo Beach, Lawndale, Torrance and Hawthorne conveniently to events at SoFi Stadium and other sports and entertainment venues in Inglewood, LAX and Downtown L.A.

The City of Hawthorne is united behind the Hawthorne Blvd Elevated Option since it brings to life the C-Line, revitalizes local businesses through higher visibility to a diverse ridership, and encourages continued development of a real destination for riders. This alternative would insulate residents from noise, vibration and land subsidence impacts when the C-Line is routed along the I-405 Freeway and the median of Hawthorne Blvd. The Elevated Option would also provide an expeditious, speedy route to the Torrance Transit Center, which would likely bolster its use at a time of general Metro ridership decline.

We fully support Metro as it seeks environmental clearance for the C-Line (Green) Extension to Torrance project via the Hawthorne Blvd Elevated Option as part of this transformative program that will provide local and regional transit system integration and modernization, while improving air quality and providing additional benefits to low-income households and disadvantaged communities. The Hawthorne Blvd Elevated Option will enable Metro to fulfill its Vision 2028 statement by “transforming LA County through regional collaboration” and “enhance[ing] communities and lives through mobility and access to community.”

Once again, we thank you for your local and regional leadership and look forward to supporting your efforts for continued enhancement of Los Angeles County’s multimodal transportation network. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Akbar Farokhi, Director of Public Works at afarokhi@cityofhawthorne.org or (310) 349-2980.

Sincerely,

Alex Vargas
Mayor
City of Hawthorne