

Expo Line Transit Neighborhood Plan (Council File 18-0437) – SUPPORT

David Youssefyeh

Jun 29, 2018 3:11 AM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

Dear Clerk PLUM Committee,

When you consider the Expo Line Transit Neighborhood Plan (TNP) on Tuesday, you have an opportunity to make Los Angeles a more inclusive place for all. By legalizing more housing near transit and jobs, the TNP will help reduce displacement and homelessness by addressing the city's housing shortage. Thanks to the Transit Oriented Communities affordable housing incentives, that new housing capacity also means plentiful new units accessible to low income Angelenos. This is precisely the kind of re-zoning that will demonstrate that Los Angeles is capable of decriminalizing apartments without state intervention. We encourage you to pass the TNP without delay.

In that vein, I am concerned about a call to maintain the ban on dense multi-family construction along Pico and Exposition Boulevards in West LA, one of the most transit-rich neighborhoods in the city. While I acknowledge concerns expressed by local homeowners about shadows (see page 3) and traffic (though rush hour congestion is caused by our jobs-to-housing imbalance: 500,000 jobs – 250,000 employed residents = 250,000 extra commuters), I am nonetheless far more sympathetic to the concerns of millions of Angelenos forced to deal with stratospheric housing costs that were caused by opposition to housing in neighborhoods just like this.

Fortunately, the dialogue is changing. Councilmember Bonin has expressed a strong desire to increase housing capacity in the TNP and improve affordability incentives to create more affordable housing. On the other side of the 405, Councilmember Koretz has expressed a desire to increase zoned capacity in the South Robertson neighborhood. Indeed, the Palms and South Robertson Neighborhood Councils support doing their fair share to increase the number of housing units that are legal to build in their neighborhood. These neighborhoods are demonstrating a good faith commitment to being part of the solution to Los Angeles's housing crisis. In addition, the NRDC "affirms that building more housing and reducing displacement near public transit is an environmental good."

Unfortunately, some voices in West LA have chosen a less constructive path. By opposing sensible increases in capacity for homes within walking distance of two light rail stations (which, by the way, were paid for by Angelenos across the county), they are making the case for why state intervention might ultimately be required to put a stop to anti-growth obstructionism. If we care about making Los Angeles a more inclusive place for all, then appeasing these concerns is inequitable, unjust, and unsustainable.

Fortunately, obstinance does not need to be rewarded. You do not need to give more ammunition to state legislators who want to revert land-use zoning powers to the state. Please, stand with the good actors in this debate and prioritize real solutions to our housing crisis. The livelihoods of millions of Angelenos depend on it.

Personally sent by David Youssefyeh using Abundant Housing LA's Advocacy Tool. Abundant Housing LA is an all-volunteer grassroots organization committed to advocating for more housing.

Sincerely,
David Youssefyeh
Los Angeles, CA 90048
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Rafi Sands

Jun 29, 2018 9:49 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

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Personally sent by Rafi Sands using Abundant Housing LA's Advocacy Tool. Abundant Housing LA is an all-volunteer grassroots organization committed to advocating for more housing.

Sincerely,
Rafi Sands
Los Angeles, CA 90024
rafaelsands@me.com