

Tract 7260 News, 2001

Exposition Boulevard. Light Rail To Be Discussed at 2001 Annual Meeting

If the right of way along Exposition Boulevard were converted into a light rail line, trains running along its tracks would connect the L. A. Convention Center, Staples Center, USC, Exposition Park, the Coliseum, West Adams, Crenshaw, Baldwin Hills, Leimert Park, Culver City, West L. A., Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade, and the beach.

With the success of the light rail Blue Line, which runs from downtown L. A. to Long Beach and carries a daily passenger load of 66,000 people a day, the Metropolitan Transit Authority, is now contemplating building the Expo route. The MTA already owns the right of way, which it purchased in 1990, and currently is surveying public opinion about the project.

A draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report is expected any day, and nearly \$500 million in federal and state funds already exists for Wilshire and Exposition projects. (The EIR contemplates a bus route as an alternative to light rail.)

The MTA, however, will have a big fight on its hands if it attempts to build a light rail system for West Los Angeles. Homeowner's along the route complain about potential noise. They also say that the success of the Blue Line has been achieved at an awful price, the many deaths and injuries caused as trains have rammed into automobiles at intersections.

On the other side, Friends 4 Expo Transits, a citizen's group formed to push for the light rail system, point to the many benefits that light rail on Exposition Boulevard would bring.

It would provide access to jobs from downtown L. A. to Culver City, West L. A., and Santa Monica and make transportation to such educational Centers as USC, Trade Tech, West L. A. College easier.

Moreover, it would link the 800,000 people who live within two miles of the proposed route with L. A.'s growing rail transit system to downtown, Hollywood, the Valley, Long Beach, Pasadena, and the Eastside.

Tract 7260 residents can learn more about Expo Rail at the annual meeting on March 28, when a speaker from Friends 4 Expo Transit explains why its organization was formed to support the project