



August 21, 1995

**INTEROFFICE  
MEMO**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority

**TO: MTA BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES**

**FROM: LINDA BOHLINGER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING** *LB*

**SUBJECT: METRO EAST SIDE REVIEW ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE LETTER TO STATE SENATOR KOPP**

Attached is a letter prepared by the East Side Review Advisory Committee (RAC) chairperson, Jimmy Dichirico. They are expressing concern that recent actions taken by the State Senate could impact the Metro Red Line Eastside Extension.

The RAC is an advisory committee made up of a broad and diverse cross-section of residents, community leaders and business owners from the Boyle Heights, Little Tokyo and East Los Angeles County communities.

RAC members have been appointed by several elected officials representing the communities where the Metro East Side Extension project is located. Their role is to review and advise the MTA on the different elements and issues regarding the East Side Extension.

MTA staff have been working with the RAC for over two years. Meetings with the RAC take place at least once a month. It is not unusual for the RAC to hold special meetings with the community to deal with items of special interest or that are controversial (e.g. relocation assistance, construction mitigation, station area planning).

I am enclosing a list of the RAC members. If you have any questions on the RAC, please call Central Area Team Director, James de la Loza at extension 46261.

## ***Metro East Side Review Advisory Committee***

August 9, 1995

Quentin L. Kopp, Chairman  
Senate Transportation Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2195  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: Oversight of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Metro Red Line**

Dear Senator Kopp:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Review Advisory Committee (RAC) for the East Side Extension of the Metro Red Line subway.

The RAC is an advisory committee made up of a broad and diverse cross-section of residents, community leaders, and business persons from the Boyle Heights, Little Tokyo and East Los Angeles communities. We have been meeting on a monthly basis for over two years to review and advise the MTA on the East Side Metro Extension.

The East Side Extension has received overwhelming support from the communities that it will serve. This support was generated by the common effort of the MTA's Central Area Team; the strong and consistent leadership of Congress members Roybal Allard and Becerra, Assemblyman Caldera, State Senators Polanco and Solis, County Supervisor Gloria Molina and Councilman Richard Alatorre and others; and the countless hours devoted by the RAC members and community residents that attend our meetings.

The East Side Extension will help to meet the ever growing transportation needs of some of the most highly transit dependent communities in Los Angeles County and specifically, greater East Los Angeles.

During the environmental planning process and the selection of the Metro route and stations location, ample testimony was given about the need to plan and build the East Side Extension as a catalyst for community revitalization. The MTA has devoted resources and created concept plans for each station.

The history of the local community shows that many projects were built in and around greater East Los Angeles without community input. This is the case with the freeways that surround and converge in this community. When the freeways were built, it destroyed and fractured stable communities. It displaced hundreds of community residents and it forever negatively impacted the local environmental quality of the air and noise pollution.

**Quentin L. Kopp**

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Not too long ago, attempts to build a state prison and an incinerator were defeated by the hard work and well coordinated effort of grass roots community organizations and local elected officials.

The Metro East Side Extension is a project that not only has strong community support but also has a great potential to benefit the local community: First by reintegrating this community into a mass transportation system connected to other systems serving other communities. Second, by providing a transportation system that is an alternative to the automobile and last but not least by providing stations that will provide incentives for community revitalization.

The RAC fully understands that the MTA problems in building the Metro in Hollywood need to be corrected. The RAC also fully understands that its role is to review, advise and make recommendations to the MTA to help insure that the Metro East Side Extension is planned and built to best meet community goals and objectives.

We urge you to carefully and responsibly legislate so that the problems get corrected without undermining the community work and support devoted to the Metro East Side Extension project.

If we can be of any assistance in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact us at (213) 244-6982.

Sincerely,



**JIMMY DICHIRICO**

Chairperson

Metro East Side Extension

Review Advisory Committee

cc: RAC Members

Senator Richard Polanco

Assemblyman Richard Katz

Assemblyman Louis Caldera

Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa

Senator Hilda Solis

Supervisor Gloria Molina

Mayor Richard Riordan

Congressmember Xavier Becerra

Congressmember Lucille Roybal Allard

Councilman Richard Alatorre

Councilwoman Rita Walters

MTA Board Members

Franklin White

Joe Drew

Jim De La Loza