

Subject: FW: Regional Connector

Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2009 10:43 AM

From: Regional Connector <RSC\_RegionalConnector@metro.net>

To: Ginny Brideau <ginny@therobertgroup.com>, Clarissa Filgioun <clarissa@therobertgroup.com>, Dolores Roybal Saltarelli <roybald@metro.net>

## Regional Connector email:

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From: Gilbert Garcia [mailto:Gilbert.Garcia@zionsbancorp.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 8:39 AM

To: Regional Connector

Subject: Great

This is a great idea. This should absolutely get done ASAP.

The light rail from 1st to blue line on washington is a good idea.

gil Garcia

Subject: FW: Regional Connector : 1st/Alameda-Nikkei Center  
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2009 10:43 AM  
From: Regional Connector <RSC\_RegionalConnector@metro.net>  
To: Ginny Brideau <ginny@therobertgroup.com>, Clarissa Filgioun <clarissa@therobertgroup.com>, Dolores Roybal Saltarelli <roybald@metro.net>

**Regional Connector Email:**

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From: Jerard Wright [mailto:wrightconcept@gmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2009 8:37 AM  
To: Roybal, Dolores  
Cc: Kerman, Ann; Regional Connector  
Subject: Regional Connector : 1st/Alameda-Nikkei Center

Dolores,

Can you give me a confirmation if the project team has in fact re-introduced Underground Alternative 6 or 8 from the Alternatives Analysis into the study, per the request of the Nikkei Center developer? There are a couple of blogs that are reporting this as fact yet there has been no reply from any of the Regional Connector project team, It would be nice if this is the case, however some actual confirmation would be nice.

Here's the links:

<http://blog.littletokyou unplugged.org/2009/10/5th-option.html>

<http://blogdowntown.com/2009/10/4806-little-tokyo-asks-metro-to-study-gradeseparated>

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The Wright Concept  
Jerard Wright  
wrightconcept@gmail.com

Subject: FW: [Regional Connector]  
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2009 10:42 AM  
From: Regional Connector <RSC\_RegionalConnector@metro.net>  
To: Ginny Brideau <ginny@therobertgroup.com>, Clarissa Filgioun <clarissa@therobertgroup.com>, Dolores Roybal Saltarelli <roybald@metro.net>

Regional Connector email:

-----Original Message-----  
From: noreply@metro.net [mailto:noreply@metro.net]  
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2009 9:07 PM  
To: Regional Connector  
Subject: [Metro.net] customer comment

Comment from

First Name: Lisa  
Last Name: Pease  
Email: lpease@gte.net  
Phone: 213-221-7746  
URL: <http://beta.metro.net/admin/feedback/comment/3/>

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As someone who rides Metro everyday from Union Station to downtown, I really wish you wouldn't put the connector so close to the existing lines.

Why not run from 7th and metro via 9th to the Garment/Flower district, have ONE stop there, and then continue on to the Little Tokyo station?

There is no shopping in downtown, save a couple of hotel shops and the Macys Plaza on 7th. But if people at the hub of 7th and Metro could hop over to the Garment District during lunch, the city's businesses would profit dramatically.

There just isn't enough to draw one to the other areas - it's all bars and restaurants, or nothing.

Please, please give us some shopping access!

And please - run a line out to Glendale. I can get to Pasadena by Metro, but have to take Metrolink to get to Glendale, and even then, not to shopping. It's sad what I can't get to, and I'm a huge fan of Metro. Please, give us access to shopping places with CLOTHES, not FOOD.

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Subject: FW: [Metro.net] customer comment  
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2009 1:27 PM  
From: Regional Connector <RSC\_RegionalConnector@metro.net>  
To: Ginny Brideau <ginny@therobertgroup.com>, Clarissa Filgioun <clarissa@therobertgroup.com>, Dolores Roybal Saltarelli <roybald@metro.net>

From Regional Connector email

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@metro.net [mailto:noreply@metro.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2009 7:11 PM  
To: Regional Connector  
Subject: [Metro.net] customer comment

Comment from

First Name: Lisa  
Last Name: Vasquez  
Email: Okifille@yahoo.com  
Phone: 213-621-0447  
URL: <http://beta.metro.net/admin/feedback/comment/4/>

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I strongly urge the MTA to avoid displacing the existing businesses and decreasing the quality of life for those of us who live at the Savoy Condominiums. I think it would be cheaper and less disruptive to route the regional connector on/through the Parker Center property that will be vacated soon. The MTA could even consider creating a transportation village/retail center in tandem with the connector on that property instead.

Thank you for considering this opinion.

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Subject: FW: Letter: Little Tokyo light rail  
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2009 1:26 PM  
From: Regional Connector <RSC\_RegionalConnector@metro.net>  
To: Ginny Brideau <ginny@therobertgroup.com>, Clarissa Filgioun <clarissa@therobertgroup.com>

fyi

-----Original Message-----

From: James Fujita [mailto:jim61773@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2009 5:01 PM  
To: online@rafu.com  
Cc: Regional Connector; aihara@jaccc.org; bw@ltsc.org; cishii@jacplsw.org  
Subject: Letter: Little Tokyo light rail

To the editor:

I am very concerned about some NIMBY attitudes that I have recently noticed in Little Tokyo.

In just a few days, the much-needed Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension will open. At the same time, the MTA has been planning a Regional Connector light rail line, which will also help Little Tokyo. These two projects will help Little Tokyo remain a vibrant neighborhood by drawing in visitors to the area.

Unfortunately, this won't happen if NIMBYs prevail in the ongoing discussions with the MTA over rail transit. Already, the Japanese American National Museum and the Japanese American Citizens League have come out against the project. The Little Tokyo Community Council recently voted to oppose both of the MTA's options for the Regional Connector.

This decision makes no sense. It is quite reasonable to negotiate with the MTA and ask for changes to be made to the existing plans. There is nothing wrong with proposing new options.

However, to take a hard-line stance against the project forces the Little Tokyo community into adversarial position. It is close-minded and eliminates any chance for a compromise.

I would support an underground station at First and Alameda if it could be done without adversely affecting the Nikkei Center or the Nishi Hongwanji temple. However, I hope that Little Tokyo residents would be willing to consider the at-grade crossing if the underground route turns out to be not possible.

- James Fujita

Subject: FW: JACL-PSW Board Resolution on Metro Regional Connector  
Date: Friday, November 6, 2009 12:44 PM  
From: Regional Connector <RSC\_RegionalConnector@metro.net>  
To: Dolores Roybal Saltarelli <roybald@metro.net>, Ray Sosa <sosara@cdm.com>, "JacksonVF@CDM.com" <JacksonVF@CDM.com>, Helene Kornblatt <kornblatthb@cdm.com>, Clarissa Filgioun <clarissa@therobertgroup.com>, Ginny Brideau <ginny@therobertgroup.com>

[Here's the resolution from the JACL-PSW](#)

**Ann Kerman**

Constituent Program Manager  
Regional Communications

**Metro**

*Central L.A. ~ San Fernando Valley ~ North County*

**Tel: 213-922-7671 ~ fax: 213-922-8868**

**Email: KermanA@metro.net**



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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From: Kristin Fukushima [mailto:kfukushima@jaclpsw.org]  
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 6:42 PM  
To: Regional Connector; Kerman, Ann  
Subject: JACL-PSW Board Resolution on Metro Regional Connector

Dear Dolores and Ann,

Hello, this is Kristin Fukushima from the Japanese American Citizens League Pacific Southwest District. I believe I have met both of you a few times at the various LTCC meetings and working group sessions, and I'm sure you know my supervisor, Craig Ishii (Regional Director).

Our Board met about a month ago and passed a resolution regarding our position on the Regional Connector. It occurred to us that while many people in Little Tokyo have seen it, MTA might also be interested in hearing the thoughts and concerns of some of the community members. The aforementioned resolution is attached on this email for your perusal. If you are interested in pursuing further conversation regarding the resolution, please feel free to contact myself, either at this email or at

our office telephone (213.626.4471).

Thank you so much for your time! I look forward to continued dialogue with you all.

Best,  
Kristin

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Kristin Fukushima  
Public Policy Coordinator  
Japanese American Citizens League - Pacific Southwest District  
244 S. San Pedro St. Suite 406  
Los Angeles CA, 90012  
kfukushima@jacpsw.org **\*\*Note the Change of Email**  
tel. (213) 626-4471  
fax (213) 626-4282

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## **JACL PSW October/November News Bytes**

**JACL-PSW Honors Individuals Who Have Worked to Bridge Communities** <[http://www.jacpsw.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=107&Itemid=27](http://www.jacpsw.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=107&Itemid=27)>  
**The 2010 JACL Pacific Southwest District Annual Report** <[http://www.jacpsw.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=54&Itemid=37](http://www.jacpsw.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=54&Itemid=37)>  
**PSW Welcomes Kristin Fukushima as the new Public Policy Coordinator** <[http://www.jacpsw.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=78&Itemid=2](http://www.jacpsw.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=78&Itemid=2)>

**Visit [www.jacpsw.org](http://www.jacpsw.org) <<http://www.jacpsw.org>> for more information on upcoming programs in the JACL Pacific Southwest District!**

**Visit [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) <<http://www.jacl.org>> for news and updates about National JACL.**



**A resolution of the Pacific Southwest District Board of the Japanese American Citizens League opposing the current Build Options presented by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for a Metro Regional Connector Build in Little Tokyo for the interest of community preservation.**

**WHEREAS**, JACL’s mission includes work to preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pacific Southwest District is committed to community preservation for Little Tokyo; and

**WHEREAS**, Little Tokyo is a recognized historical Japanese enclave, and one of the last three remaining Japantowns in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pacific Southwest District find all the current build options proposed by Metro for a Regional Connector to be built in Little Tokyo unacceptable in their impact on small businesses, residents, community events, parking, and the longevity of construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pacific Southwest District recognizes and understands the importance of mass-transit, particularly for the county of Los Angeles, and therefore is interested in finding the best possible solution for both Los Angeles as well as Little Tokyo; and

**WHEREAS**, it is vital that a build option is offered that significantly contributes and promotes a prosperous and thriving Little Tokyo, particularly if Little Tokyo is asked to give up already scarce property; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pacific Southwest District Board of JACL considers all options as put forth by Metro for a Regional Connector in Little Tokyo to be inadequate or a threat to the sustainability of Little Tokyo; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that should Metro proceed with a Regional Connector build in Little Tokyo, we understand that disruptions will occur, and therefore to diminish the burden of construction and its aftermath on the Little Tokyo community, there must be appropriate mitigations mandated such as:

- a) Minimal disruption to businesses;
- b) Minimal disruption to residents;
- c) Minimal disruption to parking;
- d) Minimal disruption to community events;
- e) In the event of an underground or at-grade line built, an accompanying Little Tokyo station;
- f) Minimal disruption to the Go For Broke monument,
- g) Minimal disruption to the Japanese American National Museum;
- h) Transparency from Metro throughout the process particularly around perceived disruptions, and for Metro to then work with community groups to find the best solution; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Pacific Southwest District Board of JACL believes it is imperative that there is a build option that would preserve a historical Little Tokyo and promote a vibrant and thriving community – be it a new one or a current option with proper mitigations.

Subject: Fw: Meeting Summary of Sep. 17, 2009 and Oct. 1, 2009

Date: Friday, November 6, 2009 5:44 PM

From: Andy Lin <seavu8@yahoo.com>

To: Ginny Brideau ginny@therobertgroup.com

Cc: Robert Volk rdv@volkproperties.com, Darryl Garibay dagaribay@sbcglobal.net, stsuyeda@gmail.com, Nancy Araki naraki@janm.org, ckomai@janm.org, Miyoko Oshima moshima@janm.org, akikumura@janm.org, awiseman@moca.org, arlene@levyaffiliated.com, Howard Nishimura hinishimura@msn.com, Brian Kito LTMANJUMAN@MSN.COM, Cazspaz@aol.com, Toshio Handa handatoshio@gmail.com, Michael Nauyok mnauyok@moca.org, Lynne Collmann lcollmann@savoyhoa.com, Paul Yeh paulyehster@gmail.com, Jaime Altamirano j.altamirano.jr@gmail.com, Alfred Chang alfred.chang@gmail.com, nicsinger eric enicsinger@yahoo.com, Lawrence Ng lawrence@oversee.net, june berk juneaochiberk@aol.com, Andy Lin seavu8@yahoo.com, mjs00CA@yahoo.com, Linda Blakeman linda@emseminars.com, salumassoc@aol.com, smrkuo@gmail.com, heera heera heera0608@hotmail.com, Masao Okamoto m.okamoto@moainc.net, Dolores Roybal Saltarelli roybald@metro.net

Hello, Ginny,

I have sent my responses to what you wrote on the Meeting Summary minutes, and requested that you send me corrected minutes. However, despite my repeated requests, you have refused to do so. Since the letter I sent to you Oct. 12, 2009, a copy is attached below, it has been almost one month already. I do not understand why you refuse to write minutes to reflect what took place during the meetings, actually a simple straight forward matter. Instead, you are using creative writing, and omissions, to paint totally erroneous pictures. This is misrepresentation of reality, and in addition it is done intentionally. When you consider that there were 60 to 70 people present at the meetings to witness what happened, your behavior is quite daring. This is a practice of deception, and a campaign of distributing misinformation.

It is somewhat like that of False Advertisement. However, in case of trying to raise money using these false and intentionally deceptive information, I think there are more serious terms for this kind of practice.

I have communicated with you long enough, and waited long enough. I have asked you face to face, again, at Japanese Museum on Oct. 27, 2007, when Little Tokyo Community Council voted on their resolution. Yet, to this date, you have not respected my requests. So I think that your intention is clear.

If I do not receive corrected minutes within a few days, I have no choice but to report the misconduct to higher authorities. I am sure that you are prepared to be accountable for your actions and take its consequences. It is not a small matter to present false information to Federal Government, and in addition trying to raise money from these false information.

Also, please tell me, tell us, where do you send these minutes to? In this day of financial turmoil on Wall Street, and resulting Great Recession we are in because of false figures and information Wall Street institutions gave, Congress, Treasury, and Federal Reserve Board are all calling for transparency in financial dealing and individual accountability. Shouldn't you at Metro do the same thing to us tax payers?

Andrew Lin

Nov. 6, 2009

Ps 4. Also what happened to the minutes of Metro presentation at Savoy HOA meeting

on Sep. 29, 2009? It has been over one month but Ginny has not sent us anything. Of course you know there was a heated discussion during the meeting and Savoy community. It was more like a community outrage because Metro has circumvented Savoy, and Little Tokyo, for the past three years. This was the first, and the only presentation by Metro about the Regional Connector to over 300 owners at Savoy, during all these years of Metro's study. Nevertheless, minutes are to reflect what took place during the meetings. Nothing more. The lack of this Savoy minutes is conspicuous.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Andy Lin <seavu8@yahoo.com>

To: Ginny Brideau <ginny@therobertgroup.com>

Cc: rdv@volkproperties.com; dagaribay@sbcglobal.net; stsuyeda@gmail.com; naraki@janm.org; ckomai@janm.org; moshima@janm.org; akikumura@janm.org; awiseman@moca.org; arlene@levyaffiliated.com; hinishimura@msn.com;

ltmanjuman@msn.com; Cazspaz@aol.com; handatoshio@gmail.com; mnauyok@moca.org; aol.com Paul Yeh <pauyehster@gmail.com>; Linda Blakeman <linda@emseminars.com>;

Lynne Collmann <lcollmann@savoyhoa.com>; salumassoc@aol.com; Jaime Altamirano <j.altamirano.jr@gmail.com>; Alfred Chang <alfred.chang@gmail.com>; nicsinger eric <enicsinger@yahoo.com>; Lawrence Ng <lawrence@oversee.net>; june berk <juneaochiberk@aol.com>;

Andy Lin <seavu8@yahoo.com>; mjs00CA@yahoo.com

Sent: Mon, October 12, 2009 3:41:34 PM

Subject: re: Meeting Summary of Sep. 17, 2009 and Oct. 1, 2009

Ginny,

I just read the Meeting Summary of Oct. 1, 2009, at Little Tokyo's JACC building. You have mentioned that I have requested Government guidelines regarding sending out notices. However, I also asked a question in the meeting which you seem to have missed. I said that according to my experience as a real estate broker for over 30 years, and involved in various development projects, I believe that it is a legal requirement to send out written notice by mails to the immediate community of the project. And I asked the question to Mr. Ray Sosa to confirm, but he said that he did not know.

Again, the following is a more accurate description of what took place during the meeting. Please make corrections. (I have copied a portion of the Summary regarding me. I am resending Sep. 17, 2009 Meeting Summary response to concerned people, including copy from the Summary regarding me.)

Andrew Lin stated that he is a real estate broker over 30 years, and is familiar with zone changes and legally required public hearings to nearby community of the project. He has worked with Goldrich and Kest, and other development projects. He read from the Public Hearing notice on one of the projects that was sent to Savoy owners from Los Angeles City Planning Department. The notice read, "TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS WITHIN A 500 FOOT RADIUS". He said he believes that since the proposed project would generate about 22 trains per hour crossing the property, or 220 trains per day, that will constitute a major zone change, and requires written public hearing notices to be sent out by mails to the immediate community, as required by laws. He asked the question to Mr. Ray Sosa



**Little Tokyo Community Council**  
369 East First Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
213 **625.0414** ext **5720**  
Fax 213 **625.1770**  
<http://ltcc.janet.org>

November 9, 2009

The Honorable Ara Najarian  
Chairman  
Board of Directors  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Downtown Regional Connector  
Second Motion from LTCC

Dear Mr. Najarian:

After further review of the options that have been presented to the Little Tokyo community on the Downtown Regional Connector by the Metro Planners, the Little Tokyo Community Council adopted the following resolution at the LTCC meeting on November 3, 2009:

#### **MOTION**

**While supporting improving the public transit system for the City and County of Los Angeles, the Little Tokyo Community Council opposes the two build options as currently proposed by the MTA for the Downtown Regional Connector. We urge that MTA explore other options.**

This motion is in addition to the motion that was approved by the Little Tokyo Community Council at the October 27, 2009 meeting:

#### **MOTION**

**The Community Council is in favor of the further exploration of continuing the Underground Emphasis Option, which currently tunnels underground at 2nd Street by continuing tunneling under 1st and Alameda and providing Little Tokyo with a station under the present Gold Line Little Tokyo/ Arts District Station, subject to the approval of the Nikkei Center, LLC, and the Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, and protecting the integrity and property of the Nishi Hongwanji Temple.**

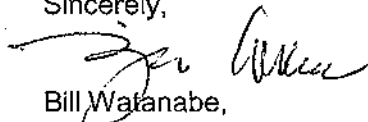
*"The Little Tokyo Community Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) which has 90+ member organizations whose mission is to ensure that Little Tokyo would be a viable center for the Japanese American community and the Los Angeles Downtown community. The Council shall work to create a vision of what Little Tokyo should be in the future and serve as an advocate on behalf of the Little Tokyo community."*

The Little Tokyo Community Council, an organization of over 90+ businesses, nonprofit community based organizations, religious, educational and resident associations, hopes to continue working with the MTA in identifying a solution for the Downtown Regional Connector that would not only benefit the Greater Los Angeles area, but would also continue to grow Little Tokyo to be an economically viable partner in the City's future plans.

The Little Tokyo Community Council respectfully urges the Metropolitan Transit Authority to consider the above motions of the Little Tokyo Community Council

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bill Watanabe,  
Chair, Little Tokyo Community Council

cc:

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Norman Mineta, former Secretary of Transportation  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Member, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Member, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Lucile Roybal Allard, Member, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
The Honorable Peter Rogoff, Administrator, Federal Transit Administration  
The Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
The Honorable Gloria Molina, Supervisor, Los Angeles County  
The Honorable Jose Huizar, Council Member, Los Angeles City Council  
The Honorable Jan Perry, Council Member, Los Angeles City Council  
The Honorable Don Knabe, Supervisor, Los Angeles County  
The Honorable Michael Antonovich, Supervisor, Los Angeles County  
The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor, Los Angeles County  
The Honorable John Lopez, Member, State Assembly, California  
The Honorable Gil Cedillo, Member, State Assembly, California  
Mr. Arthur T. Leahy, CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Members of the MTA Board of Directors

cc: LTCC Board of Directors:

Alan Kumamoto, 1st Vice Chair, Kumamoto Associates  
Frances Hashimoto, 2nd Vice Chair, Mikawaya Inc.  
Mike Okamoto, Co-Secretary, Asian American Architects & Engineers Assoc.  
Kei Nagao, Co-Secretary, J-Town Voice  
Eric Kurimura, Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple  
Chris Aihara, Past Chair, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center  
Tom Kamei, Past Chair, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of So. CA  
Noriaki Ito, Past Chair, Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple  
Howard Nishimura, Past Chair, Tokyo Villa Homeowners Association  
Craig Ishii, Japanese American Citizens League  
Goro Endo, Union Church of Los Angeles  
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Ken Kasamatsu, Pacific Commerce Bank  
Brian Kito, Fugetsu-do and Little Tokyo Public Safety Association  
Jeff Liu, Visual Communications  
Tatsushi Nakamura, Japanese Prefectural Association  
Wilbur Takashima, Little Tokyo Teramachi Owners Association  
Satoru Uyeda, SK Uyeda Investments  
Hiroshi Yamaguchi, Japanese Community Pioneer Center  
Akemi Kikumura Yano, Japanese American National Museum  
Eveyn Yoshimura, Little Tokyo Residents Association