
Public Comment (General) for 2/9/26 Transportation Committee

From Liam Walsh

Date Mon 2/9/2026 12:26 AM

To David Leger <davidl@southbaycities.org>

Dear Mr. Leger and Transportation Committee,

I wanted to submit this general comment about the C (now K) line extension to Torrance. First I wanted to thank the Committee for your vote in December to continue broad support of the project. I understand the Metro Board has now voted for the Hawthorne alignment. While I personally thought the right-of-way would have made more sense and had less ambiguous hurdles to clear, I still want to ensure this project is built since it will be transformative for the region - and if Hawthorne is the route, then I still want it to move full-steam ahead.

Given what I listened to from a recording of the Metro meeting, I am concerned about the uncertainty ahead with this alignment and want to understand what the COG, Metro, cities and other agencies can do to eliminate that uncertainty and drive towards a completed project. I understand the major items so far are the storm drain relocation, I-405 longitudinal encroachment (Caltrans review), NEPA, and FHA review. We heard from Metro staff at that meeting that the late 2036 opening date is not realistic, and more so looking at at best a three year delay, at worst 5-10 years depending on funding cycles and how the aforementioned items shake out.

Since the Transportation Committee includes representatives from local jurisdictions, Caltrans, and Metro, this would be a great forum to routinely discuss those uncertainties in more detail and come out with actions, resolutions, and timelines. I also understand that the COG may not have all the answers nor is fully responsible in delivering the project. Despite that, this is one of our largest regional transportation priorities, and this forum includes representatives from most of the involved parties. Some ideas below:

- Can construction south of 190th start this year or at least on the original LPA schedule? Seems like a great way to make headway on the portion of the project that Metro staff already had ready to go.
- Can we hear from the Caltrans representative on whether Caltrans will approve the 405 longitudinal encroachment? If this is pending more information, what is needed, who is responsible, and what is the timeline to reach a decision?
- What can the cities of Lawndale, Redondo Beach, and Torrance respectively do to reduce the major uncertainties?
- How can the additional funding gap be closed? Can the COG repurpose highway funding to this project during the Measure R/M decennial review? What can individual cities do directly or indirectly?
- When will Caltrans relinquishment of Hawthorne Blvd (SR 107) to Torrance and Redondo Beach be completed? Then, what permitting approvals are expected from each city and when?

- Can the Transportation Committee keep this project as a line item on the agenda to go over status updates, actions and questions?

Ultimately I am just looking for a better understanding of the process to go from now to being able to take the train to Torrance. With so many involved parties I am concerned this will end up with a lot of finger-pointing across agencies that do nothing but delay this promise to the people of LA County, transit riders, taxpayers, and residents who all benefit from this project. Thanks for your work and commitment to supporting this project.

Sincerely,

Liam Walsh
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