

Communication from Public

Name: Glassell Park Improvement Association
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Council File No: 22-0392
Comments for Public Posting: Please read and consider this statement from the Glassell Park Improvement Association and add our statement to the file. Thank you.

GLASSELL PARK

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

WORKING TO BETTER OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1968

20 October 2022

Los Angeles City Planning
c/o Terri Osborne (terri.osborne@lacity.org)
Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority
c/o tcn@metro.net

Statement of Community Impact re Digital Billboards

The Glassell Park Improvement Association has taken the following position:

The GPIA is **opposed** to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) proposal to implement the Transportation Communication Network (TCN) Program of digital billboards above our City's freeways. We are strongly opposed to the two Freeway-Facing TCN structures proposed for placement above the 2 Freeway in Glassell Park.

We further **oppose** Los Angeles City Council motion CF-0392 that would amend the Zoning Code to permit digital signage such as the TCN structures in Metro's proposal.

Suggesting that these billboards would "promote roadway efficiency" and "improve public safety" is disingenuous at best. The fact is these are advertising billboards that will cause more roadway hazards and light blight than can possibly be offset by Metro's ability to use them for occasional communications.

Light pollution is a serious problem in our City, and locating these billboards in our neighborhood will affect the quality of life for residents. While Metro specifies that none of the locations where the billboards will be placed are "zoned for residential use", they don't mention that one of the Glassell Park sites (FF-13 SB 2) is directly across a narrow street from a neighborhood of older, small, single family homes. People who live in the area will have their quality of life greatly diminished. Additionally, the nature of digital billboards is that from elevation, they can be seen—if not actually read—for miles.

Furthermore, the site designated for FF-14 NB 2 is at the entrance to the new Bowtie State Park along the Los Angeles River. The river in this area is a haven for native and migrating birds and many varieties of wildlife that will be negatively impacted by this type of light pollution. The State is currently creating a passive recreational space where the community has already held night-time gatherings & nature walks.

For all of these reasons, digital billboards do not belong above the 2 Freeway in our neighborhoods or over our natural space.

The Glassell Park Improvement Association was founded in 1968, and is one of the oldest organizations of its kind in Los Angeles. Our founders described our mission as advocating for quality of life issues and working to improve conditions in Glassell Park. As such, our Board of Directors has voted and unanimously approved sending this statement on behalf of our members.

cc: Los Angeles City Council, Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo, County Supervisor Hilda Solis, City Attorney Mike Feuer, Friends of the Los Angeles River, Clockshop, California State Parks, Glassell Park Neighborhood Council