



333 South Beaudry Avenue,  
24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
Telephone: (213) 241-6382  
Fax: (213) 241-8441



District 1 Field Office  
5351 W. Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles, California 90016  
Telephone: (323) 939-6315  
Fax: (323) 939-7615

***Los Angeles Unified School District  
Board of Education***

**Marguerite P. LaMotte**  
*Board of Education Member  
District 1*

May 25, 2011

Metro Board Members  
1 Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Board Members:

I write in strong support of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' motion to underground the segment of the Crenshaw-LAX Line in Park Mesa Heights and return the Leimert Park Village station to the project.

As you know, children in my district attend the schools that line the route of the rail that is currently planned to be built at street-level in Park Mesa Heights - View Park Preparatory School and Crenshaw High School. Many more students attend schools outside the region and access buses on Crenshaw Blvd.

Given the many young lives that have lost and injured in accidents with Metro's high-speed street-level trains, it breaks my heart to think that the same mistakes have been suggested for the Crenshaw-LAX Line in Park Mesa Heights. Whenever an opportunity to add grade separation to a new rail line is presented it should be done, especially next to schools. It saves lives.

I am pleased that your staff has found the resources necessary to implement the two design options. And I am hopeful that you will make a wise life-saving decision.

We are counting on you to put the safety of our children first by voting for the Ridley-Thomas motion.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte