

9/23/2015

Let the Voice of Chatsworth Residents be Heard!

To whom it may concern,

This letter is based on an interview with 24 residents along the west-side of the railroad between Rinaldi St and Devonshire St on Sept 6th and 13th, 2015, regarding the addition of the 2nd track which is very close to their backyards. Hopefully, this letter will draw attention from the public, politicians, media and Metro.

The traffic conditions and the environmental impacts were tolerable before the installation of the 2nd track. The addition of the 2nd track (about 10 years ago) with trains running only 10 feet away from their home properties should not be allowed in a civilized country like the USA. Residents have been greatly impacted by the increased train traffic, especially when two trains are behind their backyards, which results in an unbearable quality of living conditions and a concern of safety. Their complaints to the Metro have never been materialized:

- Safety – the main issue, the train is only 10 feet away from their backyards; derailment will kill residents of the entire block; the residents live under fear
- Environment Impacts – unbearable
- Trains whistle all the time – irritating
- Demand justice - for a resolution to mitigate their concerns
- Residents are moving away – they are tired of everything Metro has done

One resident mentioned a lawsuit to seek compensation. The compensation is not a long term viable solution because residents will continue to suffer from the unwanted environmental impact of heavier train traffic in the future.

Obviously, Metro made a mistake by installing the 2nd track and the double-to-single track transition so close to their backyards. It is absolutely a poor design... without considering residents in proximity of the track. The worst part of the environmental impact is when one train is idling, waiting for the opposing train to pass, and both trains are behind their backyards.

In general, these residents like trains and enjoy watching trains as a part of the scenery in their backyards, as long as the impact does not exceed their bearable limit.

The solution is very simple:

- Abandon the 2nd track from Devonshire to Rinaldi St
- Install a double-to-single track transition south of Devonshire where the Chatsworth station is
- Assign "No Whistle Blowing Zone" in the residential area

Metro will be minimally impacted by moving the double-to-single track transition to a new location, which is at a ½ mile stretch/block... enough space for an extra-long freight train to stop. This will greatly benefit the Chatsworth residents. This is the message that I hope Metro will consider. Please view the following Mitigation Plan.

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A Mitigation Plan for Chatsworth Residents

