

RESOLUTION NO. 2022/23-29

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
RIVERSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED RIVERSIDE-DOWNTOWN STATION
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PROPOSED BY RIVERSIDE
COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (“RCTC”) is currently evaluating a proposed “Riverside-Downtown Station Improvements Project” (hereinafter, “Project”), which is proposed to be completed by the RCTC, Southern California Regional Rail Authority (“Metrolink”), and the Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”);

WHEREAS, the Project includes an expansion of the parking lots at the station, with such expanded parking lots to be situated to the southeast of the railroad tracks, resulting in an expansion of the station and station traffic into the Eastside Community south of the railroad tracks;

WHEREAS, the Riverside Unified School District (“District”) currently operates Abraham Lincoln High School (“Lincoln HS”) on 4341 Victoria Avenue in the City of Riverside, approximately 800 feet from the Project;

WHEREAS, the District is currently evaluating the construction of an elementary school (“Eastside Elementary School”, or “Eastside ES”) in or around 13th and 14th Streets between Howard Avenue and Park Avenue, with the potential joint use of the City of Riverside’s Lincoln Park (“Lincoln Park”), with the primary site situated approximately 450 feet from the Project and the potential joint use park located catty-corner and within 100 feet of the Project;

WHEREAS, the District is concerned that RCTC has not adequately considered the potential environmental effects of its Project on Lincoln HS and the proposed Eastside ES (collectively, the “Schools”);

WHEREAS, the District is concerned that neither Lincoln HS nor the proposed Eastside ES are identified as nearby sensitive receptors in the Project’s environmental documentation with respect to potential air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, including potential exposure to PM10 risks from both off-road equipment and haul trucks during Project construction;

WHEREAS, the District is concerned that the environmental documents prepared for the Project, despite identifying schools as noise-sensitive land uses, fail to consider potential noise impacts to either of the Schools, including not only noise from rail operations, but more importantly increased vehicular traffic that will be generated by the Project in the vicinity of the Schools;

WHEREAS, the District is concerned relative to the cumulative direct and indirect impact to the Eastside Community and environment that will result from substantially increased train services, and the correlating increase in neighborhood traffic, that will impact the entire community, including the Schools;

WHEREAS, the District documented its concerns in a letter from the District Superintendent to the RCTC, dated February 1, 2022 (“Letter”), wherein the District set forth its comments on the draft environmental impact report prepared by or for RCTC for the Project, which letter is hereby incorporated herein by this reference;

WHEREAS, the District has concerns over the overall impact of the Project on the impact on the surrounding community, including not only the Schools, but the students and families of students that will be attending such schools and impacted by the negative impacts of the Project;

WHEREAS, the District maintains that adequate project alternatives exist, including the potential expansion of the railway station on property along Vine Street adjacent to or across the street from the already existing parking lots for the station; and

WHEREAS, absent RCTC adequately addressing the concerns of the District in the Final Environmental Impact Report (“Final EIR”) for the Project, the District’s Board of Education (“Board”) cannot support the Project as proposed.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD DOES HEREBY DETERMINE, RESOLVE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct, and are incorporated herein as findings of the Board by this reference.

Section 2. The Board hereby expresses its opposition to the Project, in its current form, absent the RCTC adequately addressing the concerns raised by the District both herein and in its Letter relative to the Project.

Section 3. The Board hereby urges the RCTC to consider alternatives to the Project, including the potential expansion of the railway station on other properties along Vine Street, between the existing station, the 91 Freeway, and University Avenue, so as to avoid impacting the Eastside Community.

Section 4. The Board hereby delegates authority to the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee, to take such action as deemed reasonably necessary by the Superintendent to effectuate the purposes and intent of this Resolution, including, but not limited to, providing copies of this Resolution to RCTC and/or publicly indicating the District’s opposition to the Project as proposed, and working in conjunction with RCTC staff to identify and pursue mutually beneficial solutions to develop a Project harmonized with the Eastside Community, inclusive of the District’s Schools.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND SIGNED this 14th day of July, 2022.

Brent Lee, President of the Board of Education of the
Riverside Unified School District

Dale Kinnear, Clerk of the Board of Education of the
Riverside Unified School District

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss.

I, Dale Kinnear, Clerk of the Board of Education of the Riverside Unified School District, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Education of said District at a meeting of the Board of Education held on the 14th day of July, 2022, and that it was so adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

By: _____
Dale Kinnear, Clerk of the Board of Education of the
Riverside Unified School District

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE)

I, Dale Kinnear, Clerk of the Board of Education of the Riverside Unified School District do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2022/23-29 of said Board of Education and that the same has not been amended or repealed and is fully effective as of this date.

Dated: July 14, 2022

By: _____
Dale Kinnear, Clerk of the Board of Education of the
Riverside Unified School District