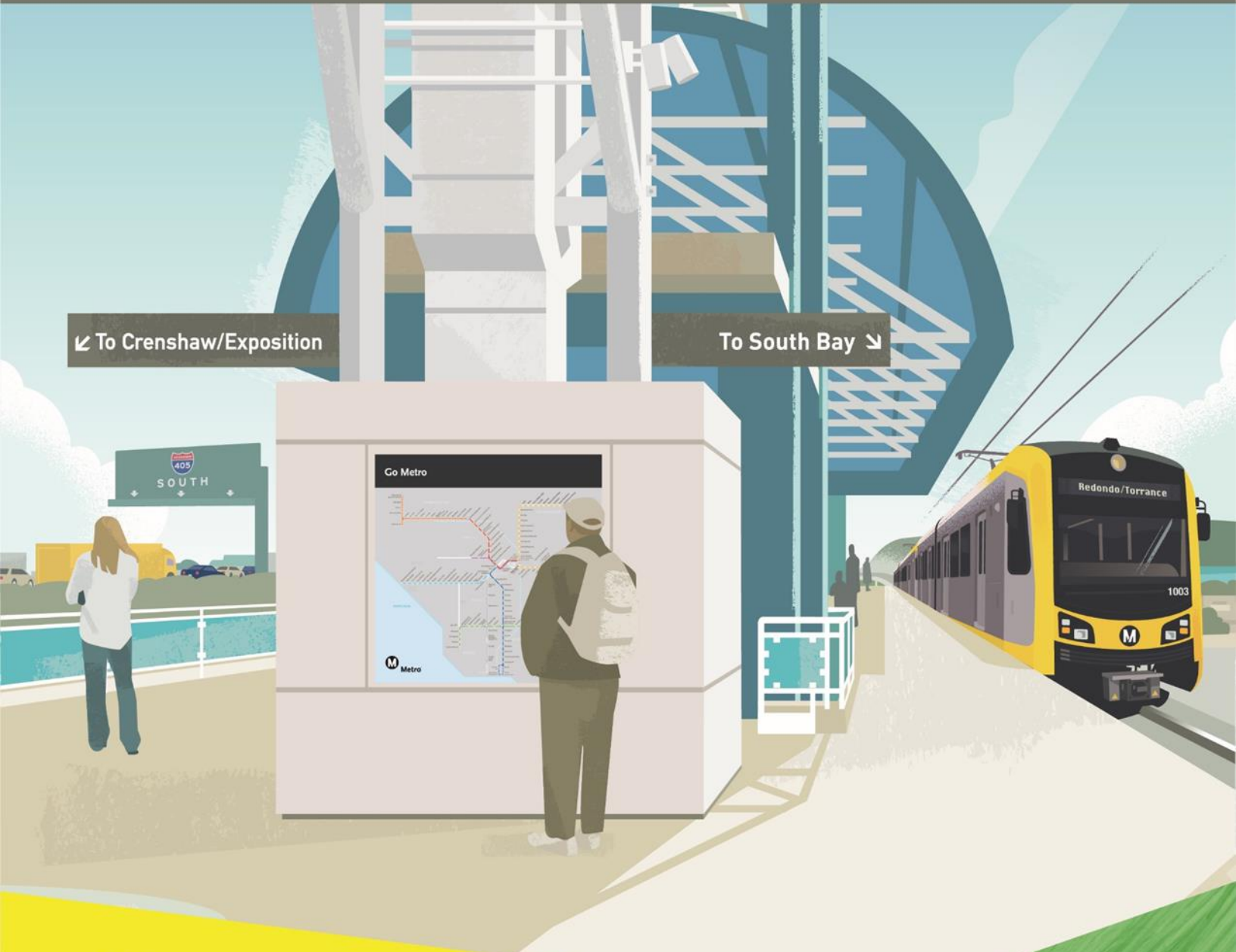


# Outreach Summary Report

## Virtual Neighborhood Walk

### C LINE (GREEN) EXTENSION TO TORRANCE



# **C Line (Green) Extension to Torrance**

## **Outreach Summary Report Virtual Neighborhood Walk**

January 2023

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## Abbreviations/Acronyms

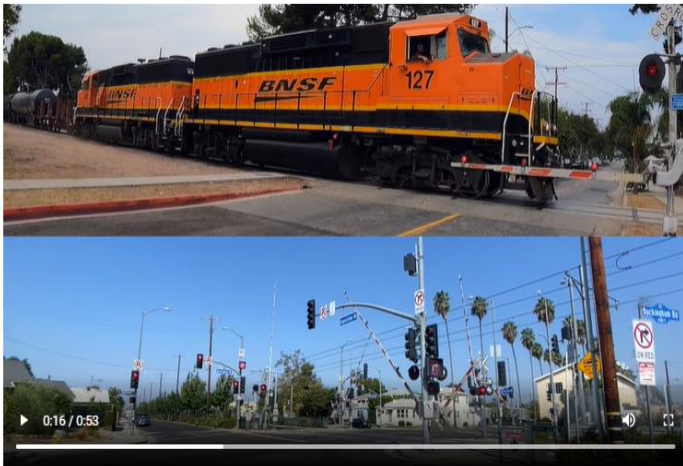
EIR .....	Environmental Impact Report
Metro .....	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
ROW .....	Right-of-Way

# 1. INTRODUCTION

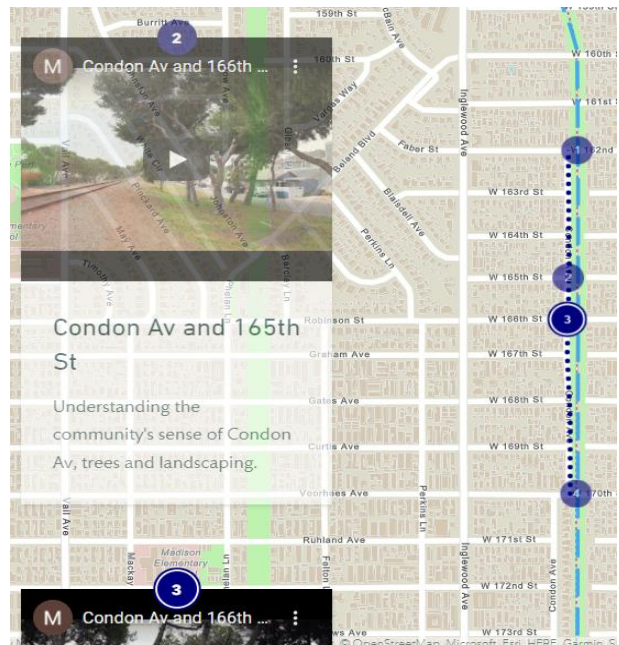
This report summarizes outreach efforts held in the fall 2021 as part of the Metro C Line Extension to Torrance Project. Due to the COVID-19 and LA County Health restrictions, in-person walks of the community neighborhoods of the C Line (Green) Extension to Torrance Project were delayed from Fall 2021 to Spring 2022 in order to adhere to the latest guidelines. As an alternative, virtual neighborhood walks were offered to the public during this timeframe through the use of StoryMaps software by ArcGIS so that attendees could still participate in a virtual walk. The virtual neighborhood walks allowed participants to virtually explore both the Metro-owned railroad Right-of-Way (ROW) and Hawthorne Blvd alignments with narrated videos at key stops along each walking route map. Following each walk, attendees could provide feedback on questionnaires that provided feedback on key design elements as well as any additional comments. The virtual walks included interactive maps of each walk route with narrated videos and captions of specific segments along each route. Over 1,600 users have visited the virtual neighborhood walk site and over 2,500 page views (as of Summer 2022) and the virtual walks can be found at <https://arcg.is/H9TrW>. Screenshots from this walk are shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1. Virtual Neighborhood Walk Screenshot**

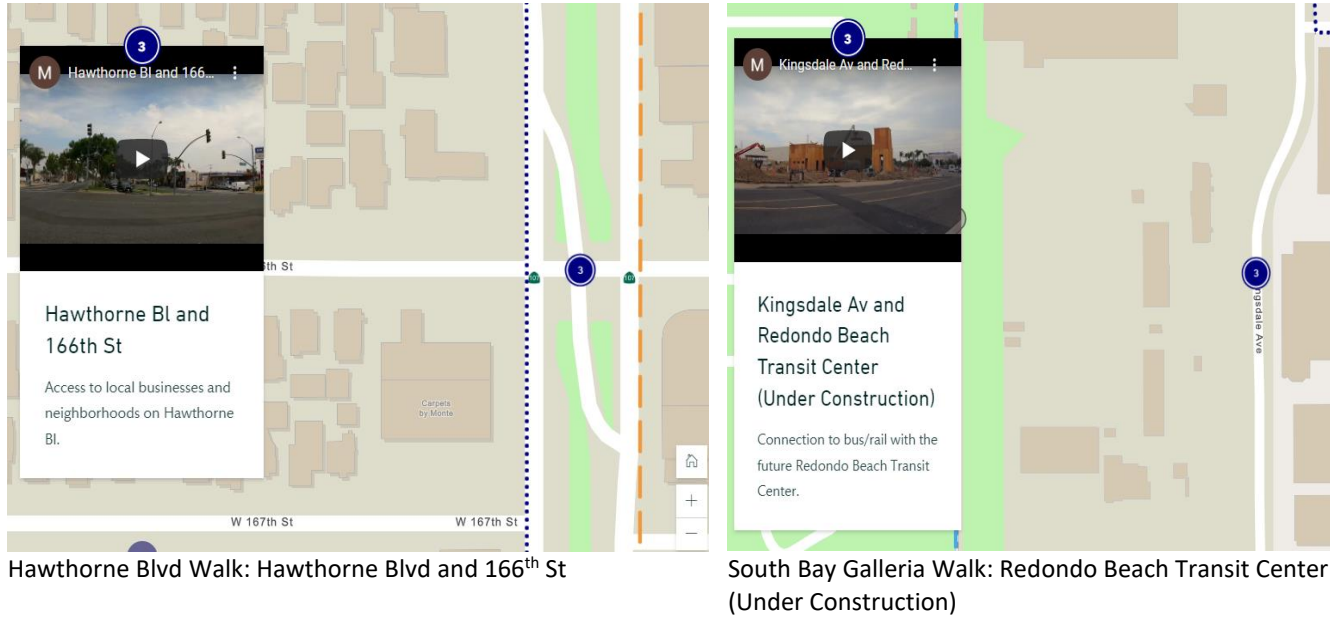
Want to know more about the differences between freight rail and Metro's light rail? Watch the video clip below that shows a comparison between the existing freight rail in the Metro ROW and the Metro E Line (Expo) or visit Metro's [rail modes webpage](#).



Comparison of Current BNSF Freight & E Line (Expo)



Condon Ave Walk: Condon Ave and 165<sup>th</sup> St



Source: The Robert Group, 2022

## 2. VIRTUAL NEIGHBORHOOD WALK NOTIFICATIONS

In an effort to communicate to project stakeholders of the upcoming neighborhood walks, targeted outreach was conducted via email (e-blasts), door-to-door flyers, and questionnaires. A total of five e-blasts were sent notifying the public about the virtual neighborhood walks from October 5, 2021 to November 19, 2021 with an average open rate of approximately 37%. All e-blast notifications were distributed in English and Spanish. A total of 32,000 flyers in English and Spanish were distributed along a one-mile radius of both the Metro ROW and Hawthorne Blvd alignments being studied, including the entire City of Lawndale announcing the availability of the virtual neighborhood walks. An additional 4,000 flyers were distributed along the immediate Project Area as a reminder about the availability of the virtual neighborhood walks and questionnaire. Maps of the distribution areas are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

**Figure 2. Flyer Distribution Map: One-Mile Radius**



Source: The Robert Group, 2022

Figure 3. Flyer Distribution Map: Immediate Project Area



Source: Metro, 2021; The Robert Group, 2022

### 3. VIRTUAL NEIGHBORHOOD WALK QUESTIONNAIRE FEEDBACK

As there were four unique neighborhood walking routes that were conducted, four questionnaires were provided following each neighborhood walk route with questions specific to those walk routes. The questionnaires were available on the virtual neighborhood walks from October 1, 2021 – November 19, 2021, with details provided in Table 1.

**Table 1. Virtual Neighborhood Walk Questionnaires**

Virtual Neighborhood Walk Route	# of Completed Questionnaires
Condon Ave/Metro ROW Walk	67
Hawthorne Blvd Walk	52
South Bay Galleria Walk	54
Hawthorne Blvd/Metro ROW Walk	59
Total Completed Questionnaires	232

Source: The Robert Group, 2022

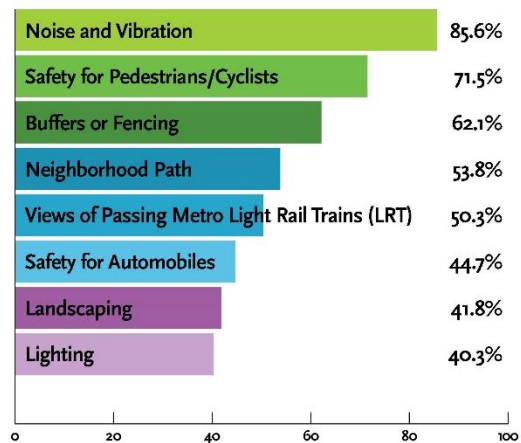
The following key takeaways were received from each walk questionnaire.

#### 3.1 CONDON AVENUE/METRO ROW WALK QUESTIONNAIRE

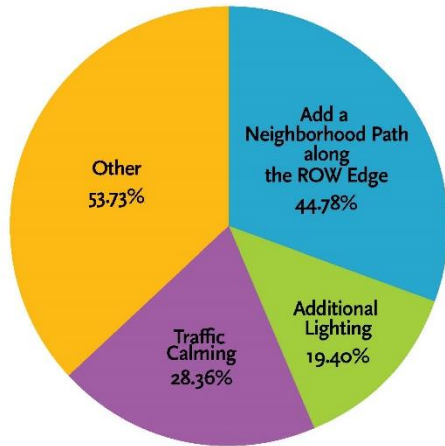
1. If you live or work in the neighborhood, what are the nearest approximate cross streets?

- Condon Av
- Inglewood Av
- Firmona Av
- 170th St
- 172nd St

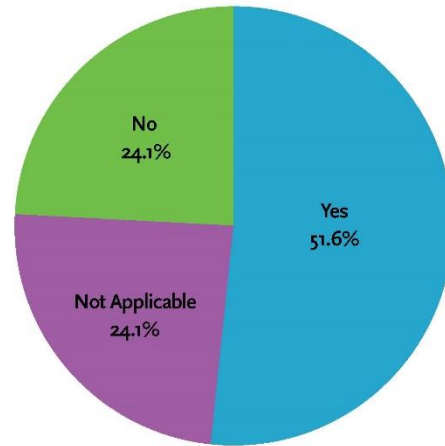
2. If the C Line Extension is located on the Metro ROW (Alternative 1) in Lawndale, what are the most important issues the design team should consider?



3. What do you think could be done to make Condon Av and the Metro ROW in Lawndale safer for residents to use?



4. If there's room for both light rail and a neighborhood path on the Metro ROW, would a neighborhood path be desired by residents?



**OTHER COMMENTS**

- > Metro ROW Alignment: Comments expressed the need for light rail in an open trench or above grade option. Comments also referenced safety for bicycle and wheelchair at crossings. Consider removing the freight lines on the Metro ROW.
- > Hawthorne Blvd Alignment: Comments expressed a preference for light rail on Hawthorne Blvd to avoid being near residential property.
- > Aesthetics: Design options should consider barriers between a path and trains, so the light rail is not visible.
- > Businesses: Comments voiced Hawthorne Blvd could bring more customers to local businesses and more revenue to local businesses.
- > Utilities: Considerations should be made for existing gas lines under the Metro ROW option.
- > Landscape/Greenspace: Consider a neighborhood dirt path with native plants, trees and greenery along the Metro ROW Alignment.
- > Noise/Vibration: Concerns regarding noise and vibration from the Project and the negative effects on nearby homes and communities. Many comments mentioned considerations for studies of sound and vibration reduction during construction and operation. A few questions were raised about the inclusion of soundproof walls and windows for residential homes along the corridor. A few comments and questions were raised about the potential removal of the freight rail line as a consideration for sound and vibration reduction. Concerns of vibration causing cracks in homes foundation and walls.

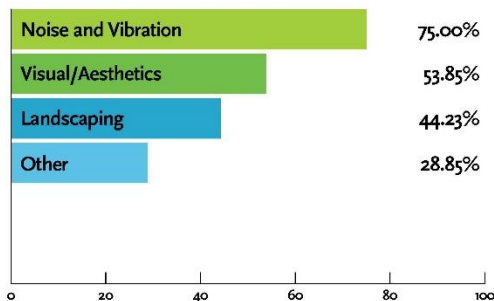
- > Property Values: Concerns that the Project would negatively affect property values and/or property impacts.
- > Air Quality/Traffic: Comments voiced concerns of an increase in pollution and traffic along the Metro ROW Alignment from the Project.
- > Safety/Security: Comments voiced concerns that crime may increase with implementation of the Project.
- > Multi-Modal Opportunities: Comments expressed support for including bicycle and pedestrian opportunities, including pathways and bike lanes to be studied and/or included in the Project.
- > Stations and Connectivity: Some of the comments requested an additional station to be considered in the City of Lawndale.

### 3.2 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD WALK QUESTIONNAIRE

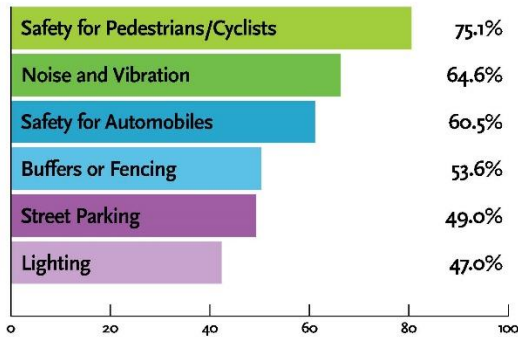
1. If you live or work in the neighborhood, what are the nearest approximate cross streets?

- Hawthorne Bl
- Inglewood Av
- Firmona Av
- Manhattan Beach Bl
- 182nd St

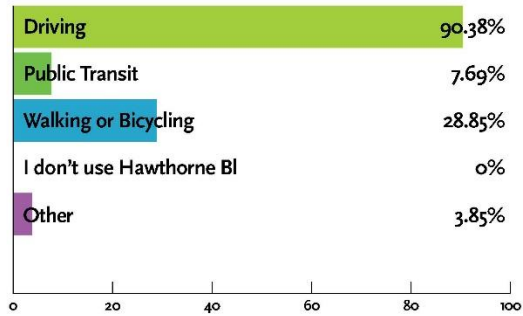
2. What is most important for the design team to consider as part of the light rail along Grevillea Av between 159th and 160th St in Lawndale?



3. If the C Line Extension is located on Hawthorne Bl (Alternative 2) in Lawndale, what are the most important issues the design team should consider?



4. How do you use the segment of 162nd St to 169th St in Lawndale?



**OTHER COMMENTS**

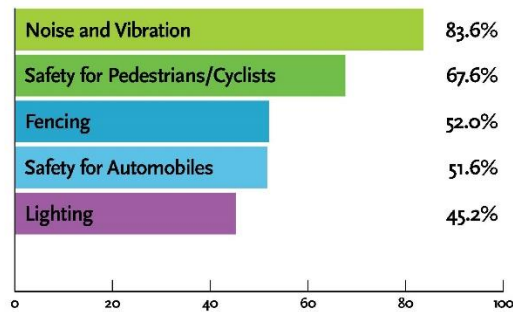
- > Metro ROW Alignment: Comments expressed a preference for the light rail tracks in an open trench or underground for the Metro ROW alignment and a preference for trench or underground configuration.
- > Hawthorne Blvd Alignment: Comments expressed a preference for a Hawthorne Blvd. Additionally, comments requested the study for an aerial or elevated alignment on Hawthorne Blvd.
- > Aesthetics: Comments voiced concerns with the loss of community character with implementation of the Project.
- > Businesses: Comments expressed that implementation of the Project with Hawthorne Blvd preference could help boost businesses and local economy.
- > Construction: Concerns that construction on Hawthorne Blvd would increase traffic and impact local businesses.
- > Landscape/Greenspace: Comments expressed the need to minimize impacts to pine trees along the Metro ROW.
- > Noise/Vibration: Comments voiced that noise and vibration on Hawthorne Blvd is less of a concern as the Metro ROW Alignment because Hawthorne Blvd is already a busy traffic corridor.
- > Safety: Comments expressed the need to add bike lanes on Hawthorne Blvd for cyclist safety.

### 3.3 SOUTH BAY GALLERIA WALK QUESTIONNAIRE

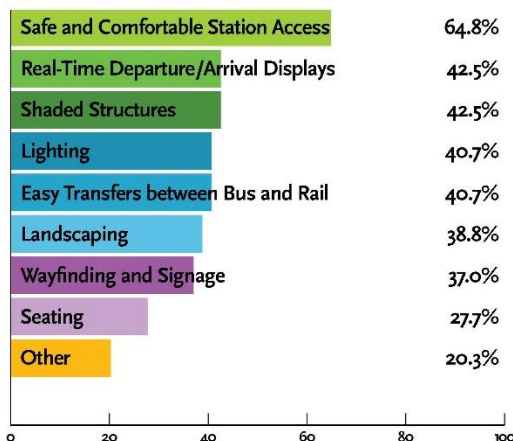
1. If you live or work in the neighborhood, what are the nearest approximate cross streets?



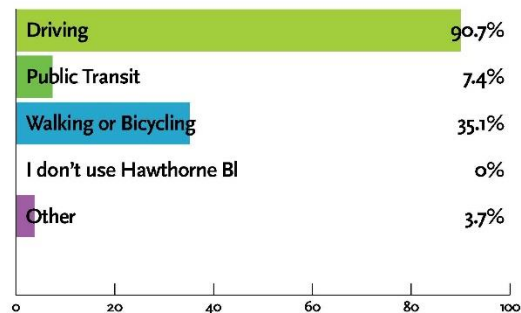
2. If the C Line Extension is located on the Metro ROW (Alternative 1) between Artesia Bl and 182nd St, what is most important for the design team to consider?



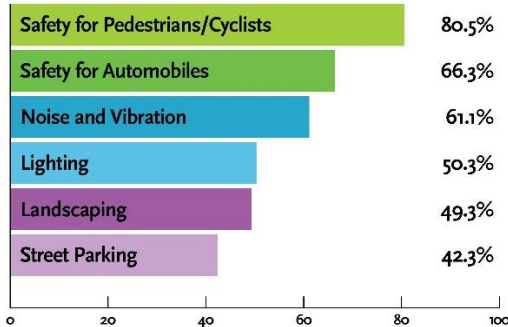
3. What station elements are most important to you for the proposed light rail station adjacent to the Redondo Beach Transit Center on Metro ROW (Alternative 1)?



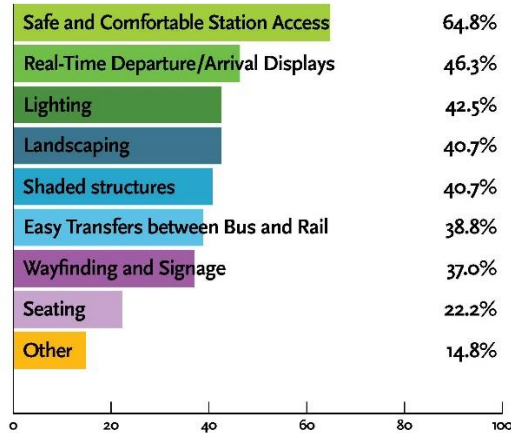
4. How do you use the segment of Hawthorne Bl between Artesia Bl to 179th St?



5. If the C Line Extension is located on Hawthorne Bl (Alternative 2) between Artesia Bl to 179th St, what is most important for the design team to consider?



6. What station elements are most important to you for the Hawthorne Bl (Alternative 2) proposed light rail station adjacent to the South Bay Galleria?



**OTHER COMMENTS**

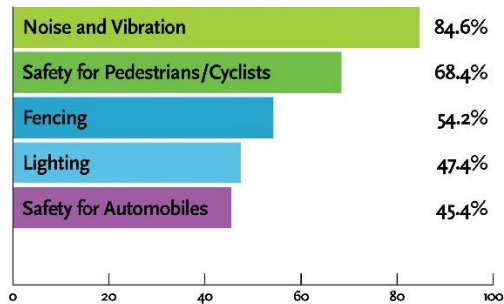
- > Metro ROW Alignment: Comments expressed a preference for the Metro ROW Alignment to avoid potential vehicle traffic on Hawthorne Blvd.
- > Hawthorne Blvd Alignment: Comments expressed a preference for light rail on Hawthorne Blvd to avoid being near residential property.
- > Aesthetics: Comments requested the need for a barrier between a neighborhood path and trains, so the light rail trains are not visible.
- > Noise/Vibration: Concerns regarding noise and vibration from the Project and the possible negative effects on nearby homes and communities with Metro ROW Alignment.
- > Air Quality: Concerns of increase in pollution with implementation of the Project.
- > Safety: Comments voiced concerns of crime increasing in neighborhoods with implementation of the Project.
- > Traffic: Comments voiced concerns of traffic congestion increasing in local neighborhoods.
- > Stations and Connectivity: Concerns of distance and amount pedestrian traffic from Hawthorne Blvd to Redondo Beach Transit Center. Additionally, some comments mentioned including secure bike parking at stations

### 3.4 METRO ROW/HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD WALK QUESTIONNAIRE

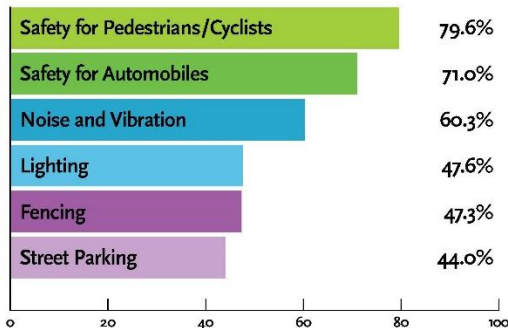
1. If you live or work in the neighborhood, what are the nearest approximate cross streets?

- 182nd Street
- Inglewood Av
- Hawthorne Bl
- Firmona Av
- Condon Av

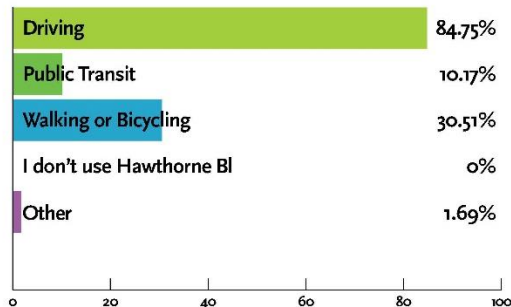
2. If the C Line Extension is located on the Metro ROW (Alternative 1) between 182nd St to 186th St, what is most important for the design team to consider?



1. If the C Line Extension is located on Hawthorne Bl (Alternative 2) between 182nd St to 186th St, what is most important for the design team to consider?



2. How do you use the segment of Hawthorne Bl between 182nd St to 186th St?



#### OTHER COMMENTS

> Metro ROW Alignment: Comments expressed a preference for light rail in an open trench or above grade option. Comments also referenced safety for bicycle and wheelchairs at crossings. Consider removing the freight lines on the Metro ROW.

- 
- > Hawthorne Blvd Alignment: Comments expressed preference for elevated alignment on Hawthorne Blvd.
  - > Aesthetics: Design options should consider barriers between a path and trains, so the light rail is not visible. Concerns of home privacy with the implementation of the Project.
  - > Businesses: Comments voiced Hawthorne Blvd would bring more customers to local businesses and more revenue to local businesses.
  - > Construction: Considerations should be made for existing gas lines under the Metro ROW.
  - > Noise/Vibration: Concerns regarding noise and vibration from the Project and possible negative effects on nearby homes and communities. A few comments and questions were raised about the potential removal of the freight rail line as a consideration for sound and vibration reduction.
  - > Property: Concerns that the Project would negatively affect property values and/or property impacts.
  - > Air Quality/Traffic: Comments voiced concerns of an increase in pollution and traffic along the Metro ROW Alignment from the Project.
  - > Stations and Connectivity: Preference for the Redondo Beach Transit Center station and preference not to walk to Hawthorne Blvd station.

#### **4. NEXT STEPS**

The comments and questions received during the virtual neighborhood walks are reviewed by the Project team to inform design strategies for the Project, and be evaluated, where relevant, as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) study. The Draft EIR is anticipated to be available for review and public comment in early 2023 followed by public hearings in the Project Area to gather additional community input on the draft environmental document.