

County of Riverside



SUPERVISOR MARION ASHLEY FIFTH DISTRICT

October 14, 2009

The Honorable Bob Magee,
Chairman Riverside County Transportation Commission
4080 Lemon St., 3rd Floor
Riverside, CA 92520

Dear Chairman Magee:

I am enclosing recent correspondence which I have received from a number of residents in the Highgrove community regarding RCTC's future Metrolink plans.

Over the course of more than a decade, the Riverside County Transportation Commission has considered and repeatedly rejected the request of Highgrove residents for Metrolink service... Most recently, the Commission spent considerable amounts of time and money to identify potential hurdles to constructing a station in the area.

My goal is to ensure that the residents of Highgrove's receive a fair hearing and careful consideration of their desire for infrastructure investment in their community and the provision of public transit service.

I am requesting that the Perris Valley Line Ad Hoc Committee schedule a meeting within the next few months to review the history of the Commission's actions regarding Highgrove from the day it was first mentioned. During the past few years we have seen new members join RCTC and some of the decisions predate my tenure as a County Supervisor.

As we embark on the investment of the Perris Valley Line, I want to ensure that we are making prudent investments with Measure A and federal dollars. While I believe that the Commission has made wise decisions up to this point, we need to continue to challenge ourselves to accomplish more and improve.

With that thinking in mind, I hope that we can revisit Highgrove's issues once again. If we can't provide a station and direct rail service to the community, I want our Commissioners to clearly understand the reasons which will only make our project better. On the other hand, if there is way to provide additional transit (either bus or rail) service to Highgrove, this could be an important opportunity to consider it.

Most importantly, I want to come away from this effort with a cooperative relationship with the Highgrove community. I would hope that Mr. Barnett could attend the ad hoc meeting with a few of his neighbors so they can interact with our committee members and staff, express their interests and concerns, and then accurately report on the matter with the rest of the community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

Marion Ashley
Riverside County Supervisor, 5th District

Cc: Bob Buster, Vice-Chair, Riverside County Transportation Commission:
Barney Barnett, Chairman, Highgrove Community Council