

10/13/11

Public Speaking: MTS Board Transcript

Good morning, Council Members,

My name is Rhonda Ciardetti. I am a resident of La Mesa. I would like to request MTS to facilitate and procure reduction of the noise element from the trolley along the Orange and Green lines in La Mesa, between Loren Drive and Water Street. This trolley runs between the Amaya station, El Cajon, and Santee.

Please see the attachments: DVD, Map of Area, Trolley Route, and the Noise Element Study 1989 identifying the noise impact over 20 years ago. There are two trolleys now and double tracks, more frequent trips, and longer hours of operation.

An additional trolley rail has been installed. The trolleys turn around from the end of line in a few minutes. The trolley passes by the houses on Loren Drive an average of 280 times per day weekdays.

Sleep is impacted. Hours of operation and low ridership at certain times are questionable. The trolley runs 21 hours per day and residents feel this is excessive. Please watch and listen to the five-minute DVD. This was shot from a backyard approximately 135 feet from the trolley tracks.

Resident cannot enjoy energy savings as they are not able to cool homes by opening doors and windows. The trolley causes unnecessary utility usage.

The area has churches, schools, and parks. There is a hospice on Loren Drive. There are numerous parcels impacted with excessive noise. The community also contends with noise of Interstate 8, Hwy 125, and Helispot/airway helicopters. The decibel level is severe.

Recreation is impacted due to noise. The sound waves travel like rushing water up the slope behind Loren Drive to streets and homes. Yards cannot be enjoyed. There is no peace and quiet with the trolleys going by so often.

The residents could enjoy a better life if the trolley noise were reduced. A recommendation to alleviate the problem could be a tunnel or sound barriers. The barriers could also display art murals to make the neighborhood more beautiful. Additionally, a trolley bridge over Severin Drive would stop the congestion there and the incessant honking of each trolley horn at the intersection.

Thank you for your time.