

Dear Honorable Mayor and Member of the City Council,

The 710 Community Fellows are students from Sequoyah and John Muir High Schools who have taken on the challenge of learning more about the 710 freeway and the Reconnecting Pasadena project over the past several months. The premise of the program is that the opinions and perspectives of young people matter, especially on a project that will shape the future of our city. On Saturday, April 18th, we hosted a 710 Youth Summit to discuss the 710 Vision Plan and restorative justice for families harmed by the freeway. The Summit brought together more than 35 young people from Sequoyah, Muir, PHS, Marshall, Polytechnic, Rose City high schools, and Sierra Madre Middle School. Collectively, we would like to consider the following points as you make decisions about the 710 area and restorative justice for the city. The 710 Community Youth Fellows recommend that the City of Pasadena incorporate the following elements into official plans for the 710 stub:

Sustainability + environment

- Organized gardens (wild but organized). A balance of landscape design similar to the Arlington Gardens;
- Compensation (in habitat) for animals affected by the freeway's destruction;
- EV chargers in parking structures;
- Solar panels on the roofs;
- Open and green spaces for mental health and community;
- A community garden where people can grow their own food.

Streets + transportation

- Wide open streets and sidewalks so people choose to walk;
- Equitable public transit;
- Inclusion of bike lanes;
- Alert stations for public safety (similar to college campuses).

Commerce

- Attractiveness: take the best aspects of Pasadena and converge them into one;
- Impressiveness to compete with the Glendale and Arcadia malls;
- Small businesses and smaller corporations;
- Space for a farmer's market;
- Small businesses that accept EBT or have affordable products.

Housing

- High-density housing;
- Senior housing;
- Multi-family housing.

Mindset + Philosophy

- Open-mindedness to adapting;
- Future-ready infrastructure;
- Maintenance of a route to the hospital.

In terms of keeping young people involved and engaged over the long-term, we think the following points are important to keep in mind:

- Reinstate Pasadena's Youth Council, which this will allow for more student involvement in local issues;
- A guarantee that city government will hear and seriously consider the voices and opinions of students and youth;
- Jobs and internships related to civic involvement are an important way to engage young people;
- Provide incentives through community service hours and recognition we can use for college applications.

Thank you for considering these points. The opinions and perspectives of youth involved in the 710 Community Fellows program and individuals who attended the Summit are available at our website 710communityfellows.org.

Sincerely,

710 Community Fellows

Kamala, Xavier, Ryder, Diego, Mercy, Sarah, Maebh, Oona, Max, Theodric, Desmond, Mariah, Dashiell, Hart, Marckys, Trist, Piper, and Sawyer