

NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

Neighbors Working Together for a Better Community

March 12, 2012

To: Jing Yeo, Senior Planner
Richard Bloom, Mayor
David Martin, Planning Director
Rod Gould, City Manager

Re: Bergamot Transit Village Center DEIR Comments

Northeast Neighbors request that the EIR for Bergamot Transit Village not be certified because the proposed project and the proposed alternative projects will only add to the jobs/housing imbalance that is creating tremendous traffic congestion in our city.

For the record, minutes of the August 23, 2011 meeting of the Santa Monica City Council reflect the fact that members of Northeast Neighbors joined with other neighborhood associations and concerned citizens to request in public comment that the requested DEIR process on the PaperMate redevelopment project (aka Bergamot Transit Village Center) be stopped because of the following facts:

1. The City had not yet completed the Area Plan for the 140 acres mixed use industrial corridor where PaperMate stands. HUD had issued Santa Monica a \$650,000 grant to prepare an Area Plan for this site but this Plan has not been completed.
2. The process to revise the Zoning Ordinance had not yet begun and would therefore also not be available to the City Planner, City Council or to the citizens of Santa Monica to inform decisions on the proposed Bergamot Transit Village Center. That Zoning Ordinance Update Project is not expected to be completed until 2013.

Unfortunately for the residents of Santa Monica, the City Council voted to allow the PaperMate redevelopment project to proceed. We join with other neighboring communities to request that the EIR not be certified until the completion of both the anticipated Area Plan and the Zoning Ordinance Update.

Sincerely,
Tricia Crane
Chair

on behalf of the Board and members of Northeast Neighbors