**Our Mission**

Investing in Place’s mission is to align policies and public dollars to support transportation investments that strengthen communities.

**Our Region’s Need**

Nearly a 15-year life expectancy gap exists between the wealthiest and most impacted communities in Greater Los Angeles. Our transportation network plays an essential role in providing or impeding access to resources, opportunity, and quality of life.

In 2018 Los Angeles is poised for transformation, supported by new and continuing transportation dollars. At Investing in Place, we believe these investments must be distributed with a data-driven and equitable framework to build a thriving region that is accessible people in Greater Los Angeles.

**Our Strategy**

We envision a Los Angeles where inequities are reduced through public policies and investments. Our unique advocacy style combines three primary strategies:

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<th>Research &amp; Ground-truthing</th>
<th>Advocacy</th>
<th>Capacity-building</th>
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<td>Our original policy analysis and education resources justify a data-driven, needs-based framework for public infrastructure investments that improve social equity and regional economic health. We collaborate with community partners to ensure research outcomes align with lived experiences of impacted communities.</td>
<td>Our advocacy work is grounded in our collaborative research outcomes. We rely on our diverse professional network of policymakers and community-based partners to inform our strategies.</td>
<td>To foster informed and equitable policy development, Investing in Place builds capacity amongst various stakeholders in Greater Los Angeles through regular multi-sectoral convenings and educational policy resources.</td>
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Current Work

Policy Research & Analysis

Investing in Place produces original policy papers, comment letters, weblogs, videos, and other popular education tools to inform stakeholders and partners of our research. We also work with research partners to elevate collaborative analysis that demonstrates equitable policies create regional economic growth.

Our policy work can be viewed at: investinginplace.org/work

Multi-sectoral Convenings

Investing in Place hosts a range of convenings:

- Large-scale educational forums that share policy analysis and provide a platform for dialogue between public, non-profit, faith-based, academic, and private sector representatives;
- Intimate breakfast meetings between key policymakers, public agency leadership, and community-based leaders to identify shared values and resources to develop and implement equity-based policies; and
- Issue-based working groups comprised of elected official staff, researchers, and community organizations that build professional capacity to dive deeper into policy analysis and recommendations.

Direct & Partner-based Advocacy

We are able to mobilize community organizations and members to advocate for policy change while also working directly with public officials and policymakers to identify equitable policy solutions that lead to economic health of the region.
Executive Director and Founder Jessica Meaney moved to Los Angeles over 20 years ago and for several reasons chose not to own a car. It was a choice she was privileged to make as part of her professional commitment to work to improve the Los Angeles County region to become more safe, reliable, and accessible for all - especially for those with the least options. It’s this passion that led her to create Investing in Place in January 2015. A non-profit organization that is focused on expanding the voices at the decision-making table, improving transparency in budget decisions, and using data to inform and prioritize transportation and land use investments.

Jessica has her Master of Arts in Urban Sociology from California State University, Los Angeles. Prior to Investing in Place, Jessica worked at the Southern California Association of Governments as Regional Transportation Planner, the Safe Routes to School National Partnership as the Southern California Policy Director.

Investing in Place is guided by Staff and the Advisory Board, key leadership partners, and our work groups. Investing in Place has a six-person advisory board that meets monthly, with leaders from various disciplines and areas of Los Angeles County, that ensures Investing in Place’s direction continues to be strategic, implementable, and sustainable. Members: David Diaz (Active San Gabriel Valley), KeAndra Dodds (Community Development Commission of Los Angeles County, Richard France (Estollano LeSar Advisors), Luis Gutierrez (Southern California Edison, Alexis Lantz (Los Angeles County Department of Public Health) and Rudy Espinoza (Inclusive Action for the City).

Investing in Place Board biographies can be found at: https://investinginplace.org/about
**Fundraising History & Impact**

Started in 2015, Investing in Place has cultivated a range of public, foundation, and individual donors to fund our impact on the transportation policy and public investment landscape of Greater Los Angeles. We have successfully raised $1.1 million over our first three years. This has helped support our sustainability and success, notably the following highlights:

**Public Investment Influence**

- **First-ever countywide dedicated active transportation funding (2016)**
  
  Investing in Place was a pivotal leader in ensuring local dollars would be invested in first/last mile access to transit, safe routes to school, and a regional active transportation network. As a result, Measure M, a voter-approved countywide transportation sales tax, dedicated 6%-8% of its $122 billion expenditure plan to active transportation.

- **Including first/last mile investments as transit capital project costs (2016)**
  
  Local jurisdictions are currently required by Metro to contribute 3% of total Metro transit capital costs for projects in their jurisdictions. Based on Investing in Place recommendations, Metro has allowed jurisdictions to count investment in first/last mile investments toward their required 3% capital contribution, an estimated $300 million.

- **City of Los Angeles Vision Zero budget (2017)**
  
  Los Angeles City Council approved $27.2 million for Vision Zero’s annual budget, a citywide, multi-departmental program to eliminate traffic fatalities by 2025. After initially receiving no dedicated funding, Investing in Place and partners rallied to demonstrate public support for Vision Zero and councilmember allies to reverse the funding decision.
Policy Development

First-ever Los Angeles County Active Transportation Strategic Plan (2016)

Investing in Place led a campaign pushing Metro to create and adopt its first-ever plan to quantify funds that would make Greater Los Angeles accessible for people walking and rolling. The Active Transportation Strategic Plan (ATSP) identifies a range of $11- $29.5 billion needed to improve regional transportation options.

Chair of Metro Policy Advisory Council (2017-2018)

After voters approved the Measure M sales tax measure, Metro leadership formed the Policy Advisory Council (PAC), a 27-member body comprised of jurisdictions, transportation providers, and consumers. The PAC provides recommendations to Metro, guiding the implementation of Measure M and its $122 billion expenditure plan. Investing in Place has held the inaugural PAC chair seat since its formation.

Integrating mobility and infrastructure planning (2018)

Through community mobilization and advocacy meetings with local policymakers, Investing in Place influenced a Los Angeles City Council vote to include transportation safety when prioritizing sidewalk repair. This has paved the way for long-term discussions with the City to improve infrastructure project delivery and the City’s candidacy for competitive funding opportunities.

Metro Equity Platform adopted (2018)

Metro adopted its first-ever Equity Platform Framework. Investing in Place served as inaugural chair of the Metro Policy Advisory Council (PAC), conducted original policy analysis, and advocated with multi-sector partners to support this focus on transportation investments in communities where the need is greatest.
Multi-sector Convenings

In the past four years Investing in Place has hosted a total of 26 multi-sectoral convening, reaching over 1,500 participants, to discuss critical transportation policy and finance issues.