Better Buses for LA
October 2019 Work Group meeting
Today’s POP (Purpose, Objectives, Process)

Purpose
- To come together with partners to begin to talk about improving bus service in LA City.
- To anchor this effort in community organizations that have members who ride the bus.
- To support existing efforts now, and learn from past efforts to support and advocate with bus riders.

Objectives
Reviewing data on buses that are tied up in congestion and have high ridership to build next steps for engaging policymakers and reaching out to LA City Council offices.

Sharing perspectives and updates on the status of transit in LA Region
Recalibrating strategy since the list we were expecting will not come out till next month.

Providing an update on the Flower Street bus only lane pilot project
Discussing opportunities for advocacy and change.

Process
Building off the Better Buses for LA September work group meeting

On-going discussions and input with ACT-LA and other partner organizations

On-going meetings with Metro Staff and City of LA staff
## Today’s Agenda

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EVERYONE</strong></td>
<td>Introductions around the room</td>
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<td><strong>PRESENTATIONS</strong></td>
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<td>Where is the list? Why downtown? Other updates</td>
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<td>LA Streets and buses impacted by Congestion</td>
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<td><strong>BREAK OUT GROUPS</strong></td>
<td>Small group discussions</td>
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<td><strong>DISCUSSION</strong></td>
<td>Report backs from group break outs</td>
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<td><strong>NEXT STEPS</strong></td>
<td>What’s next and other spaces to engage</td>
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Metro + LA City created a working group

Directive

Metro and municipal buses operate on streets controlled by the City of Los Angeles and neighboring cities. Therefore, City agencies have a critical role to play in ensuring that residents and commuters have access to fast, frequent, and reliable bus service. Close coordination between Metro, LADOT, and the Public Works bureaus is essential to successfully implement infrastructure changes.

Outcomes

To report back with a list of priority bus-supportive infrastructure projects needed to support the NextGen bus service plan, with an emphasis on near-term improvements that can be implemented concurrently with each phase of NextGen.

Key Criteria

Identify 7-10 key corridors where Metro Buses are tied up in traffic by October 2019.
Where is the list?
Trip Density - volumes of daily trip origins per census both transit and overall trips
Stop Level Ridership
Looking at Congestion and High Ridership Impacts....... Ideas that are bubbling up from people in this room and elsewhere are ..

Possibly converging bus routes into bus lanes in downtown on:

- Grand, Olive, 5\textsuperscript{th} and 6\textsuperscript{th} –
- Making flower street permanent

Potential corridors where we hear buses are getting stuck in traffic (not a exhaustive list or one from Metro and/or City of LA)

- Santa Monica/Sunset
- Fairfax/Hollywood
- Venice
- Olympic
These streets/segments are about 19 miles

Just along these 19 miles of streets:

- 475 bus stops, serving
- 51 different Metro bus lines,
- The ability to improve service on 36% of all Metro’s bus lines
  - Assuming there are 142 lines, per cuts of Metro’s data
Congestion Data?
Break Out Groups
Small Group Discussions - Break Out Groups

- Ground Truthing and Outreach/Organizing
- City Council Outreach and strategic political support
- Data and Technical Needs
- Other Group? Different topic need not listed here?
Report Backs
Next Steps

- Flower Street bus only pilot project - Metro Operations Committee on Thursday 10/17.
- November NextGen Working Group Meeting Date TBD (Metro/City of LA to share the list of prioritized corridors)
- November 19th - Better Buses for LA work group meeting 3:30 - 5pm at Cross Campus
- November 20th - Investing in Place Party! 6-8pm at Cross Campus
- January 14th - Better Buses for LA Work Group meeting 3:30 - 5pm at Cross Campus
- January Metro Committees - Metro board to make decisions on NextGen
- January/February ACT-LA Transit Summit
Better Buses for LA
THANK YOU!
Better Buses for LA Work Group Meeting  
Tuesday October 15th 3:30 - 5:00pm  
Cross Campus, 800 Wilshire Blvd, 2nd Floor, LA 90017  
Meeting Contact: jessica@investinginplace.org or 213-210-8136

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Process
- Building off the Better Buses for LA September work group meeting
- On-going discussions and input with ACT-LA and other partner organizations
- On-going meetings with Metro Staff and City of LA staff
Agenda
3:15 - 3:30 Room open and snacks available

3:30pm - 3:35pm Introductions around the room

3:35pm - 3:45pm How congestion downtown has a ripple effect on other neighborhoods (strategy behind why focus is downtown - ripple effects + lots of buses)
  - Research and data from Maddie Brozen, UCLA Luskin Center

3:45pm - 4:05pm Presentation: Congestion on LA Streets - Presentation by Eva Pan Moon, Metro

Looking at all day congestion trends for:
  - Downtown LA especially on: Grand, Olive, Broadway, 5th and 6th, 7th

Looking at all day congestion trends for:
  - Olympic (a street that already has peak hour parking restrictions - and pretty busy in Koreatown - and in downtown LA) Street segments from Main to Arlington
  - Hollywood Blvd in Hollywood - Street segments - on Hollywood Blvd from Fairfax to Vermont
  - Santa Monica/Sunset/Chavez from Vermont to Vignes
  - Venice entire corridor (Main to Abbot Kinney)

4:10pm - 4:40pm Group breakouts/discussions on strategy and advocacy

  1. *Ground Truthing and outreach and organizing ideas*
     - Ground truthing the corridors/key streets with partners to see if these are the right ones. Reaching out to key partners for November BB4LA meeting?
     - What stories are we trying to tell and who is telling them; and how are we going to actually organize people so that when decision points come up we are ready.
     - How to support and build off ACT-LA’s work and winter Transit Organizing meeting
     - Who are key partners in this conversation?
• Learning from previous LA centered mobility/transportation campaigns - what has worked/what hasn’t, what this effort needs.
• Other issues/ideas on community outreach and ground truthing?

2. City Council Outreach and key influencers
• How to build support and understanding with Council offices and staff?
• Who influences City Council offices - can we reach out to them?
• City Council elections and CD 14/downtown
• Other issues/ideas on building political support and power?

3. Data and technical strategy needs/ideas
• How to use/leverage Metro’s congestion data? NextGen bus data
• What are powerful visuals that help tell the story? Visual on how much transit trips/people this impacts in DTLA - boarding data in downtown - lighting up the hotspots
• How can this be part of a conversation about better mobility in downtown
  ○ ie did you know 1,000 streetlights are out in downtown?
  ○ ie barrier protected bike lanes on 7th?
• Other issues/ideas on data and technical tools needed/wanted?

4:40pm - 4:50pm Group Report Backs

4:50pm - 5:00pm Next steps

• How today’s discussion shapes Nov 19th BB4LA meeting
• Flower Street bus only pilot project - Metro Operations Committee on Thursday 10/17. Receive and file for 5 months to evaluate normal operations of the bus only lane after the shuttles go away.
• November NextGen Working Group Meeting Monday November 18th Metro Headquarters - 15th floor 8:30/9am
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• January/Feb ACT-LA Transit Summit
Resources

- [Trip Density - Nextgen Data](#)
- [Google map of today’s corridors - thanks to Madeline Brozen at UCLA](#)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alfonso Directo</td>
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<td>Amanda Colligan</td>
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<td>Bart Reed</td>
<td>The Transit Coalition</td>
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<td>Boris Suchkov</td>
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<td>Bryn Lindblad</td>
<td>Climate Resolve</td>
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<td>Carlo De La Cruz</td>
<td>Sierra Club</td>
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<td>Carmina Calderon</td>
<td>East LA Community Corporation</td>
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<td>Caroline Toren</td>
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<td>Carolynn Johnson</td>
<td>ITDP</td>
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<td>Carter Rubin</td>
<td>NRDC</td>
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<td>Cassie Halls</td>
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<td>Cesar Hernandez</td>
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<td>Daniel Stoloff</td>
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<td>Little Tokyo Service Center</td>
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<td>First 5 LA</td>
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<td>Deborah Murphy</td>
<td>Los Angeles Walks &amp; DMUD+P</td>
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<td>Eli Lipmen</td>
<td>Move LA</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Medrano</td>
<td>WORKS</td>
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<td>Greg Bonett</td>
<td>Public Counsel</td>
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<td>Hector Gutierrez</td>
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<td>Jerard Wright</td>
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<td>Jessica Cruz</td>
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<td>Joe Linton</td>
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<td>Oren Hadar</td>
<td>Pico Great Street Collaborative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roberto Perez</td>
<td>City of Los Angeles - Council District 8</td>
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<td>Sandra Romero</td>
<td>LISC LA</td>
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<td>Scarlett De Leon</td>
<td>ACT-LA</td>
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<td>Seamus Garrity</td>
<td>California State Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacy Weisfeld</td>
<td>Office of Mayor Garcetti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tulsi Patel</td>
<td>Estolano Advisors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanessa Carter</td>
<td>University of Southern California</td>
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Current: 5th/6th Street at Main Street

Possible: 5th/6th Street at Main Street
Current: Olive Street between 6th and 7th Street
Political organizing discussion group - report backs

- Spent time talking about Flower - and how it was a pop-up and somewhat easier to build political support. Flower - got a lot of business support - that was a huge factor.
- We need to make sure we connect with business support for all these ideas - especially if campaign focuses on downtown.
  - Central City Association
  - South Park Business Improvement District
  - LA Chamber
  - LA County Biz Fed
- Multiple council district + LA county supervisors up for election
  - CD 14 - Huizar (candidates Kevin De Leon and Monica Garcia)
  - Supervisor District 2 - MRT
- Is Metro’s communication campaign/marketing/social media support better buses?

Action item:

- Make a list of developers, project leads on transit oriented projects - who would support better buses campaign
- Public Outreach and Communication campaign - video,
- Action item: group talked about meeting with everyone on City of LA Transportation Committee (Bonin, Martinez, Koretz)
- Flower Street evaluation - will the metro be asking riders how they felt about the bus only lane?
- Better understand who in the business community and how - supported Flower Street bus only lane - lessons learned

Outreach/Groundtruth small group report back

- Make sure we are in good contact with people who are already organizing around transit and buses
- Promotora model - strategies for doing direct outreach/person to person to build support
- ACT-LA’s upcoming transit summit and what hearing from member organizing already around better transit - ie WORKS
- Member organizations, Faith Based Organizations,
- Connecting the dots between lines in DTLA and effects in neighborhoods where is grassroots organizing power
• Organizing power - that is close to downtown
  o South LA
  o Pico Union
  o San Pedro St/Central - high propensity and high ridership
  o 5th and 6th and 7th as east/west routes - being considered

Data needs small group report back
• Seeing the trip time doubles with the congestion - data from Eva
  o Important metric is bus only lanes provide on-time performance and reliability
  o Win over local business - bus only lanes allowing people to better manage their time and run local errands hopping on and off the bus
• Ideally we have data on the number of passengers - how many people would be traveling on those buses/in that bus only lane - making arguments of efficiency
• Look at bus stops and experience boarding the bus
• How do we predict what people who drive and why they might oppose these improvements
• Looking at NYC 14th recent bus improvements - looking at examples of pilots that worked
• Need to better understand parking utilization
• There’s a point at which we speed up the buses so much - we get “free service” - we get more bus frequency
• There is already data that metro is measuring on user experience - the social impact of public transportation, community safety, metro’s recent how women travel study
• Creating data and stories around the constituents - family, single mom, older adult

Needs/Action Items:
• Off street parking numbers - when we have a corridor we are zeroing on - can the city provide street parking numbers?
• Peak hour lanes - where are they?

Feedback on working group:
• How can we leverage Metro funding opportunities - ie silver line - regionally significant
• SGV COG and South Bay COG - how are we connecting with them
• Finding out more about NextGen - and next steps
Find out - in order to get a bus only lane approved by city council what needs to happen - step by step.