Purpose of Better Buses for LA Work Group

- Creating a collaborative space for partners to share ideas, information and advocacy efforts for improving bus service
- Share updates and discuss strategies around Metro’s NextGen, Bus Only Lanes and COVID-19 response/recovery transportation efforts

For more information on the Better Buses for LA Work Group and previous meeting notes: [https://investinginplace.org/work/work-groups/](https://investinginplace.org/work/work-groups/)

Key topics for today’s discussion:

- Metro Committee agenda items
- Metro and COVID-19
- Bus Only lanes in downtown LA

Items at Metro Committees this week

Great resource to track Metro documents on twitter: [@numble](https://twitter.com/numble)

Metro Agendas - [posted here.](http://example.com)

COVID

- COVID-19 Service and Recovery Plan Update (Operations Committee)
- Metro COVID-19 Task Force (Executive Management Committee)

COVID Budget

- [Adopting a Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2021 Budget](http://example.com) (Finance, Budget and Audit Committee)
- COVID-19 Loss and Mitigation (Executive Management Committee)

Bus Only Lanes

- LA DOT and Metro: Bus Speeds Working Group (Operations Committee)

Transit Fare

- Metro Transit Passes Motion (Executive Management Committee)

Planning

- [Long Range Transportation Plan released for public comment](http://example.com) (Planning and Programming Committee)
- Metro Affordable Transit Connected Housing Program - MATCH program (Planning and Programming Committee)
  - Crenshaw/LAX bus bridge - Centinela Grade Separation (Planning and Programming Committee and Executive Management Committee)

**Capital Projects**
- Program Management Annual Evaluation (Construction Committee)
- Crenshaw/LAX project cost increases (Construction Committee)

**Agenda:**
3:30 Welcome/Introductions

3:35 Recap of highlights from last week’s meeting and key agenda items at Metro Committees
- All Group discussion on Metro Committee agenda items and related
- Presentation
- Contact information for Metro Board of Directors and Transportation Deputies

4:05 Break Out Groups
- Metro and COVID-19 - Identified Concerns and Initial Solutions: Part II:
  - Part II discussion on what do we see as solutions (last month we did the challenges - see notes below)
  - How can what we are recommending reflect values of equity and prioritization of high need communities first, transparency, inclusive decision making (things we highlighted in blog post)? What outcome are we trying to achieve?
  - Do our ideas align with Metro COVID-19 staff task force recommendations? Metro Staff COVID-19 Task Force 12 Recommendations
  - Anything missing? What about budgets?

- Bus Only Lanes in downtown
  - Bus and Bike Lanes currently in design/engineering for 5th and 6th which are getting repaved in June.
  - Metro designing bus lanes, LA DOT designing bike lanes.
  - Community Outreach will happen similar to the 7th Street process.
    - What else should be part of the City and Metro’s Outreach?
Are their specific organizations/ways people want to support?
- Grand and Olive have a bus every 60 seconds, also getting repaved this summer.
- Challenges people anticipate for advancing bus only lanes on 5th and 6th? And Bike Lanes
- Bus Speeds Working group: Which corridors should be next?
- What are some suggested Action Steps this group’s members can take to support implementation of the lanes on 5th and 6th?

4:30 Report Backs

4:45 Next Steps, Partner updates, Meeting Wrap up

Meeting notes
- Welcome/Introductions from Jessica Meaney
- Presentation: Metro Board and Committees (slides)
  - Metro Board of Directors 5 seats/votes from LA County, 4 seats/votes from LA City, 4 LA City Committee Appointed, 1 non-voting state appointed.
  - Five Committees that Investing in Place tracks
    - Planning + Programming
    - Finance, Budget, and Audit
    - Operations, Safety, and Customer Experience
    - Executive Management Committee
    - Construction Committee
    - There are additional adhoc committees such as congestion pricing
  - See meetings and agendas for board and committee meetings here: https://boardagendas.metro.net/
  - Key items on Committee agencies
    - More in depth discussion happens at committee meetings than board meeting, so these committee meetings are often a better opportunity to provide comment
    - Covid-19 Service and Recovery Plan Update (Ops Committee)
      - Ask to see more data
    - Metro Covid-19 Task Force (Exec Management Committee)
      - 12 recommendations in the report from staff
      - Part of breakout discussion today
    - Covid Budget (finance, budget, and audit committee)
• Metro punting on adopting budget until fall
• Covid-19 Loss and Mitigation (Exec Management Committee)
  ○ This includes CARES act funds
  ○ Creating two buckets, one for projects that will be funded and moved forward, the second bucket is being put on hold. Jessica was not able to find a detailed list for second bucket

■ Bus Only Lanes (Operations Committee)
  • THERE’S A MAP
  • We have confirmation that plan is moving forward

■ Transit Fare
  • Metro Transit Passes Motion (Ops Committee)
  • Recovery plan, reducing price of day pass, creating a 3 day pass, reducing monthly pass, and more.
  • This also includes a request for a report on fare capping.
  • This is one of today’s breakout sessions

■ Planning
  • Long Range Transportation Plan release for public comment (Planning and Programming Committee)
  • Jessica noticed EJ analysis that was present in 2009 is not present.
  • Metro Affordable Transit Connected Housing Program (MATCH) Planning and programming committee)
    ○ 18mil program, request for changes b/c of Covid
  • Crenshaw/ LAX bus bridge - Centinela Grade Separation (Planning + Programming AND Exec Management Committee)

■ Capital Projects
  • Program Management Annual Evaluation (Construction committee)
    ○ This doc is helpful if you ant to learn about capital projects
  • Crenshaw/ Lax project cost increases (Construction committee)
    ○ Cost increases
      ○ Discussion
- 28 by 28 is not on track - where are we on these projects? How are we going to pivot to providing necessary transit?
- Folks have heard NextGen is still important and they in some cases are trying to accelerate NextGen especially around schedule changes right now.
- Foothill has a few lines they are maintaining or increasing service -- so perhaps these are places we should be thinking about developing affordable housing and bus rapid transit.
- There is a working group - follow-up with Eli Lipmen if you want to be invited.
- Yes, let’s double down on these key corridors and bus rapid transit. Places where there is a “lifeline” need.
- Yes, we need more data.
- Bay Area Operator Union work is around safety right now. How do we push for safety.
- Transit App! Announced yesterday. Metros’ app has been a problem in delivering a place to load fares. Mobile Fare is on strategic plan
- Transit app collects transit data, getting access to this is good.
- Dash already has crowd sizing on Transit app. If you click on incoming dash - it shows how many seats are available.
- Dash is crushing it -- free transit and free masks!
- Heard biggest riderership on Dash is pico-union route
- Just read about Pittsburg, using UVC to clean. Wondering how that might help during this time.
  - Direct these kinds of questions to chief of staff at Metro - who can direct them to the best places
- Crowding info - Metro is asking Transit App about this feature.
- Metro has APC - Automatic Passenger Counting on the buses, but this data does not transmit back to metro in real-time
- Is the escalating situation in CD14 going to impact any potential action in downtown? Yes. Not having a voting council member is going to be a challenge.
- One of the hard things about tracking in Metro - is you had to know where to hunt stuff down and now the cross work makes it even harder. In one report Metro wants to consider off-peak free transit. This tracks well in equity for women who are off-peak riders.
- In the LA region we have the lowest transit ridership loss in the region.
45 day break on biz submitting sales tax, so worried about a cash flow issue. Longer-term Metro is paid based on the number of miles of service and if we are in a situation where we are running more buses with fewer people - that capacity changes the way we fund public transportation.

CTA (Chicago) has published their post shutdown ridership maps with street level resolution: https://www.wbez.org/stories/map-transit-data-show-which-parts-of-chicago-are-working-from-home/1b99d462-ea24-4365-a7b8-35dcb9e417b

- Metro public comment process
  - Some comments are being lost
  - If you are worried about them being lost, send to committee chair via email at least 24 hours before meeting
  - If you want them read outloud - submit during the meeting
  - If you need help - reach out to Jessica

Break Out Notes
- Bus Only Lanes
  - Updates from Jessica. We've been talking about this for months. Working Group was formed. Downtown was identified as “Tier 1” including 5ht and 6th. Their first report, first public announcement is going to the metro board.
  - This includes metro designing Bus-only lanes, and the City designing bike-only lanes. BSS has an “ADAPT” program to prioritize bigger streets during Covid. So on July 5th/6th are scheduled - they will be black and unmarked, but then restrippedin for bus and bike.
  - We expect there will be some outreach.
  - Is anyone else working more closely. Do you have confirmation on strong, yes! If bike lanes don’t go in, the City stands to lose funding in ahsc money - $15million.
  - ADAPT - has been a real problem in other areas where bus/bike lanes were planned and ADAPT team restripped as is.
  - Learning from tht 7th street outreach, I am concerned, signalization isn't part of the conversation, including for pedestrians. I want to make sure we are advocating for signalling and street lighting to be part of the
conversation. We need this for safety. I’m not sure the biz and property owners are informed on 5th/6th.

- For a long time we had no public commitment, so want to take a moment to celebrate this step forward.
- Yes, we can see problems coming in agency coordination - even departments within the same agency.
- For discussion: What challenges do we expect
  - Communication
  - Pedestrian prioritization
  - Signaling
- Off-the-record convos with BSS and DOT - saying lots going to happen but you can’t share this, there will be an announcement, and then it doesn’t come. Yes, what’s good right now is this latest update is one the record.
- There are also lines for buses on Olive on the map.
- Updating map and NextGen routes will be covered by
- Lack of enforcement in other places, is this part of the plan?
- There is some cameras for bus-only lanes legislation in the work
- Personal experience - if just paint, after a while motorists will ignore.
- I’d love to see “painted lanes” Red, Green, etc.
- We know there is resistance b/c of filming, but this would be helpful.
- There was a metro board action about front-facing camera on buses, there are cameras that exist but some privacy issues about this data.
- This data was accessed before for a bike/bus interaction study
- Questions we can/should bookmark for later
- With the painting, with filming, “we are talking to them”
- Enforcement on 5/6th - happy the bike lanes are part of this but don’t want Metro to use a cop contract so cops harass homeless using bike lanes.
- Is 7th painted green yet? Just the conflict zones are painted solid green.
- The 3 year film la moratorium on green paint ran out, so are you done checking in with them? No we still talk to them and still have an “ok” list of streets. We can talk about this being bad. But they are maybe saying the same thing about bus lanes. It would be nice to have more assurances
- In terms of assurances - in this report, it will go to the City of LA transportation commission -- so these are great places to provide comments.
- request Metro apply equity framework to enforcement.
- If streetcar has a lane - can be used as a bus lane. Ask the streetcar groups to advocate for this.
Is flower permitted? Permanent? Vote is happening next week on this. We should celebrate!

Have we seen the conception design on bus and bike lanes together? Getting this right is tricky. We should look at this now. No they aren’t done yet - being worked on now

I can imagine lots of streets will have this combo in the future/

Who else should we be adding to this conversation? Esp since CD14 no longer has voting power.

Brainstorm ideas:
- LA tourism - esp the hotels and navigating the ingress/egress
- Downtown BID and CCA
- City Council member elect Kevin de Leon
- Skid row Housing Trust
- Community Organizations
- Transportation Advocacy Groups

Before covid -- walking the corridors - looking for the design issues
  - We could at least do a street view walkthrough!

Are they talking about doing temporary first like Broadway, we think permanent.

7th street virtual workshop was not the best for getting good feedback

Is anyone thinking about better ways to get feedback.

If we are concerned, how are we elevating them now? Before and outside of design workshops

Some agencies are looking for better tools for virtual placemaking feedback.

The poster boards aren’t going to fly anymore

Move LA Applied for SCAG mini-grant to use DOT buses as wifi-hotspots
  - In exchange for free-wifi, have to do survey

What lanes are going to show up next?

Are there examples of other places that have great bus and bike lanes?
  - 15th Street in Denver is a one-way street with a left side bike lane
  - There are planning docs for 14th street in DC, https://ggwash.org/view/76262/dc-is-creating-another-bus-lane-this-time-on-14th-street

Via chat
  - Are the bus lanes going to be painted red?
■ Central City Community Plan is being updated now and has a list of stakeholders who could be engaged as well. Clare Kelly is the contact in DCP.
■ Is it clear that the bike lane is on the left and the bus lane on the right?
■ Westside COG Mobility Study comments are due by Friday. If you want to see bus lanes on the Westside, now is the time to comment: [https://www.westsidecities.org/transportation](https://www.westsidecities.org/transportation)
■ Quick street view on 6th street: I counted 5 parking entrances and at least 4 delivery vehicles on parked in the far right lane
■ Useful map (created by Streets For All) showing upcoming repavings, and bike and bus lanes planned in Mobility Plan: [https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1DqymigEQtaZWjQapam9BDgkQ-DgBGPxy&ll=34.05842926548583%2C-118.24132476748605&z=13](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1DqymigEQtaZWjQapam9BDgkQ-DgBGPxy&ll=34.05842926548583%2C-118.24132476748605&z=13)

• **COVID 19**
  ○ Go back to the board in June and can recommend for staff action
    ■ Add’l action items may emerge
  ○ Budget realities - this is a moment for advocates to present a short list of priorities for funding
    ■ De-fund highway programming before sacrificing transit projects
    ■ No fare increases, free transit
    ■ Ridership - the future of. How will the system respond to potential decreases
  ○ Another justification for bus-only lanes is to make the bus a more appealing choice
  ○ What are ways that riders can indicate they need a stop with limited/no contact?
  ○ Taskforce recommendation re service levels is following Operations’ lead
  ○ Fares - strategic plan calls for comprehensive fare study

• **Priorities for outcomes through COVID interventions?**
  ○ Serving/protecting essential workers who are transit dependent
Protecting metro staff
- Longer-term, align our priorities with health and equity priorities
- Unhoused population, addressing their needs
- The riding experience - fostering comfort
  - Potential solution(s): monitors, or someone to support bus driver in facilitating passengers in social distancing, face covers (ease burden from drivers)
  - Sanitization station on board
  - notices/communications re cleaning procedures
  - There will be some comms (eg telephone town halls)
- Opportunity to message current speeds with no congestion to support the benefit of bus only lanes in long term

Metro and COVID-19 - Identified Concerns and Initial Solutions: Part II:
- Part II discussion on what do we see as solutions (last month we did the challenges - see notes below)
- How can what we are recommending reflect values of equity and prioritization of high need communities first, transparency, inclusive decision making (things we highlighted in blog post)? What outcome are we trying to achieve?
- Do our ideas align with Metro COVID-19 staff task force recommendations? Metro Staff COVID-19 Task Force 12 Recommendations
- Anything missing? What about budgets?

Notes/Ideas from April Breakout session: Meeting the Needs of Essential Workers and Vulnerable Communities at Metro

A. Concerns
   1. Transit is not officially free
   2. Safety for transit operators and older adults/immune-compromised
   3. Service cuts will affect essential workers and vulnerable communities the most
      a. Overcrowding on lines moving through neighborhoods with fewer cars, especially as service is reduced
      b. Long wait-times and inconsistency after schedules are reduced
4. Villainization of unhoused transit users; lack of Metro’s support in connecting unhoused riders to Project Roomkey
5. Lack of robust bicycle network to encourage safe mode shift for current transit users

B. Proposed Solutions
   1. Free transit
   2. PPE and protections for bus operators
   3. Sustain timely and reliable service, especial for key transit lines
   4. Provide ACCESS/ADA mobility services for older adults and immunocompromised people
   5. Prioritize bus service/transit (not cars) as budgets shrink
   6. Create emergency bike lane network
   7. Launch safer, expanded program for Metro Bike
   8. Support, not villainize, unhoused folks seeking shelter on transit

II. Leadership and Communications from Metro
   A. Concerns
      1. Lack of accountability and transparency from Metro on budget decisions
      2. Car-related investments will be prioritized over transit investments in shrinking budgets; capital projects will be prioritized over operations
      3. Unclear next steps and future for NextGen
      4. Metro Chief Equity Officer does not directly report to Metro CEO
      5. Future public fear in using transit, including after number of operator deaths is published
      6. Misplaced concern on density instead of overcrowding (sidewalks, housing)
   
   B. Proposed Solutions
      1. Publish bus and train ridership data each week so we can understand the key transit lines for essential workers and essential trips
2. Prioritize data-based decision-making (not promote fear mongering and criminalizing poor people)

3. Status updates on NextGen and the role of equity in Metro’s decision-making

4. Communicate Metro’s vehicle cleaning protocol

**RSVP’s**

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Better Buses for LA
May 2020 Work Group meeting
Today’s POP
(Purpose, Objectives, Process)

Purpose
- Creating a collaborative space for partners to share ideas, information and advocacy efforts for improving bus service
- Share updates and discuss strategies around Metro’s NextGen, Bus Only Lanes and COVID-19 response/recovery transportation efforts

Key topics for today’s discussion:
- Metro Committee agenda items
- Metro and COVID-19
- Bus Only lanes in downtown LA

Process
- Building off the Better Buses for LA Monthly Work Group meetings
- Ongoing discussions and input with ACT-LA and other partner organizations
- Ongoing meetings with Metro Staff and City of LA staff
Format and Agenda

- About 25-30 minutes all group presentation and high level discussion. Follow along on the google doc with agenda and key links.

- 25-30 minutes in small group discussions
  - Metro and COVID-19 recommendations
  - Bus Only Lanes in downtown LA in 2020

- Report Backs and Next Steps

- Notes posted online and shared

- We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month - Metro Committee week - next meeting June 16th
Metro Board of Directors - Composition

**LA County Supervisors**
(all electeds)

5 votes

**LA City Representatives**
(3 electeds + 1 appointed)

4 votes

**City Selection Committee**
(all electeds)

4 votes

**Quorum & Majority Vote**
7 votes

**Two-thirds Vote**
9 votes for eminent domain and non-standard contract procurement

**Four-fifths Vote**
Req’d to send a committee recommendation to the full board

**Total =**
13 voting members

**Governor’s Non-Voting Appointee**
(Caltrans LA Director)
Metro Board of Directors

**LA County Supervisors**

- **Kuehl**
  West LA/ SF Valley

- **Barger**
  North County/ SF Valley

- **Solis**
  East LA/ SG Valley

- **Ridley Thomas**
  Central/ South LA

  2nd Vice Chair

- **Hahn**
  South Bay

**LA City Representatives**

- **Garcetti**
  Mayor
  1st Vice Chair

- **Dupont-Walker**
  Mayor Appointee

- **Bonin**
  Councilmember (West LA)

- **Krekorian**
  Councilmember (East SF Valley)

**City Selection Committee Reps**

- **Najarian**
  Glendale City Councilmember (North County/San Fernando Valley)

  Chair

- **Butts**
  Inglewood Mayor (Southwest Corridor)

- **Fasana**
  Duarte Councilmember (San Gabriel Valley)

- **Garcia**
  Long Beach Mayor (Southeast/ Long Beach)

**NON-VOTING**

Governor's Appointee,
Caltrans LA Director

- **Bulinski**
# Metro Board of Directors Committees

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<td>01</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Programming 3rd Wednesday @ 11AM</td>
<td>Programs, long range and short range plans for all modes of transportation, strategic plans, environmental impacts and clearances.</td>
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<td>02</td>
<td>Finance, Budget, Audit 3rd Wednesday @ 1PM</td>
<td>Annual budget, financing, bonding, risk management, insurance policies, fare policy, revenues, investments, eminent domain, and real estate transactions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Operations, Safety, Customer Experience 3rd Thursday @ 9AM</td>
<td>Service design and service changes, security and surveillance systems, policing, nominations to Metro's local service councils.</td>
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<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Construction 3rd Thursday @ 10:15AM</td>
<td>Capital building and engineering of Metro's transportation infrastructure program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Executive Management 3rd Thursday @ 11:30AM</td>
<td>Public policies, legislative matters at the local, state and federal level, strategic relationships with other governmental entities.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Metro Full Board Meeting 4th Thursday @ 10:00AM**

All 13 Metro Board of Director + Non-voting member appointed by the Governor
Key Items on Metro Committee Agendas this week

Links to staff reports and presentations in the google shared document
COVID

- COVID-19 Service and Recovery Plan Update (Operations Committee)
  - Highlights: Weekly ridership numbers, Transit Service levels, workforce impacts, cleaning & PPE
  - Action: Monitoring, encouraging more buses, requesting data based on bus/train lines

- Metro COVID-19 Task Force (Executive Management Committee)
  - Highlights: 12 recommendations from Metro staff include: customer survey, safe/slow streets, cleaning, bus only lanes, masks, contactless ticket option and fare reductions, telecommuting, capital projects, bike share, homeless services and partnerships, alternative services
  - Action: Part of today's breakout group discussion
COVID Budget

- Adopting a Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2021 Budget (Finance, Budget and Audit Committee)
  - Highlights: Metro delaying adopting annual budget until September
  - Action: Monitoring

- COVID-19 Loss and Mitigation (Executive Management Committee)
  - Highlights: Funding details, CARES act, one bucket and two bucket
  - Action: Monitoring - unclear what’s in Bucket 2

Bus Only Lanes

- LA DOT and Metro: Bus Speeds Working Group (Operations Committee)
  - Highlights: We have a map!
  - Action: Part of today’s breakout group discussion
Transit Fare

- Metro Transit Passes Motion *(Executive Management Committee)*
  - Highlights: Metro Board motion - once COVID-19 has passed reducing day pass, creating 3 day pass, reducing monthly pass and more. Also a request for report back to the Metro Board in 120 days fare capping.
  - Action: Monitoring and Fares part of today's breakout group discussion discussing COVID-19 recommendations

Planning

- Long Range Transportation Plan released for public comment *(Planning and Programming Committee)*
  - Highlights: Metro released LRTP for 45 day public comment period. Last adopted LRTP is from 2009.
  - Action: Monitoring
Planning

- Metro Affordable Transit Connected Housing Program
  - MATCH program (Planning and Programming Committee)
    - Highlights: $18 million dollar program. Ask is to improve the MATCH Program and maximize the deployment of resources to support the development and preservation of affordable housing units in Los Angeles County during COVID-19.
    - Action: Monitoring

- Crenshaw/LAX bus bridge - Centinela Grade Separation (Planning and Programming Committee and Executive Management Committee)
  - Highlights: addressing issues for drivers along Centinela. Shuts down Crenshaw line for up to 2 years after it opens. Tradeoff decisions with significant impacts to transit riders.
  - Action: Monitoring - it’s in prelim engineering phase.
Capital Projects

- Program Management Annual Evaluation *(Construction Committee)*
  - Highlights: Comprehensive list of all capital projects underway at Metro.
  - Action: Monitoring

- Crenshaw/LAX project cost increases *(Construction Committee)*
  - Highlights: Cost increases, pulling from other sources of funding - such as Multiyear Subregional Funds. Cash management policies being developed case by case basis without larger impact look to system needs.
  - Action: Monitoring
- Feedback
- Discussion
- Things we missed or got wrong
Metro Engagement  - Link to contacts list in google doc

Levers & Levels of Engagement

**Public Comment Letter**
By 9:00 am, day before meeting:
Email Michele Jackson
Board Secretary
213.922.4605
jacksonm@metro.net

**Foster Staff/Board Relationships**
Target meeting Week #1 to #2 (Thursday) to get ahead of the monthly board cycle (for who: see power analysis slides)

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**City & COG advocacy**
Your City Council Meetings + Transportation/Land Use Committees (see COG slide)

**Attend and/or serve on Metro councils**
2) Service Council: nominee of Board or COG director

**Foster Staff/Board Relationships**
Aim to meet Week #1 to #2 to get ahead of the monthly board cycle
Break out groups:

- Metro and COVID-19 - Identified Concerns and Initial Solutions: Part II
- Bus Only Lanes in downtown
Better Buses for LA

THANK YOU!