

**Better Buses for LA May Work Group Meeting  
Tuesday June 16th 3:30 - 4:45pm PT via zoom**

**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/>*

**Key topics for today's discussion:**

- Metro Updates and actions
  - Metro and COVID-19
  - Encourage public comment to be directed to [Operations, Safety and Customer Experience Committee](#) Thursday 6/18 9am
- [June Report from Bus Speed Work Group](#)
  - Bus only Lanes 5th and 6th: a westbound bus only lane on 5th Street and an eastbound bus only lane on 6th Street, between Flower Street and Central Avenue.
  - Buffered Bike Lanes
  - Bus only Lanes Aliso Street (Spring to Alameda)
  - Bike and Bus Only Lanes Olive and Grand

**Agenda** ([and link to presentation](#))

**3:30 Welcome/Introductions**

**3:35 Updates on Metro**

- [May 31 Letter from ACT-LA, Los Angeles Walks, and Investing in Place: Metro abandons riders and their responsibility: systemwide suspension of transit harms communities facing two pandemics](#)
  - Anticipate this issue being raised at Operations Committee (Thursday 6/18 9am) and at Metro Full Board on Thursday 6/25 in the CEO Report
- [Thursday June 18th 9am Operations, Safety and Customer Experience Committee](#) - encourage public comments and watching this

meeting for key issues related to covid, policing, potential around Free Transit

- [COVID 19 updates](#) - Item 15
- [Transit Security Updates](#) - Item 18
- [Comprehensive Pricing Study](#) - Item 19
- [Report back on Use of Force - Motion](#) - Item 35
- [Planning and Programming Committee](#) (Wednesday 11am) and [Executive Management Committee](#) (Thursday 11:30)
  - [Modernizing the Metro Highway Program Motion](#) - Item 8
- [How to provide public comment and key contacts](#)

### Notes & Discussion

- Presentation from Jessica Meany on updates from Metro (SLIDES)
  - Metro Board has 13 voting members, refreshing this info because every year on July 1st we get a new metro board chair, Five committees
- Metro Ops Committee This thursday June 18th
  - Agenda includes covid (15), security (18), transit fares and pricing (19), and report back on use of force (35).
  - Expecting to see discussion on shut-down of service during protests and allowing LAPD to use buses (and full report at 6/25 board meeting)
  - ACTION ITEM: public comment item 15 and item 18
- Q: How does metro count riders b/c of backdoor riding? Automated passenger counters, advocates haven't seen this data yet and want to. Ridership on some corridors weren't being prioritized. Also had cellphone data -- and reviewing tweets and customer service data.
- Q: Metro is holding a state of the agency meeting tomorrow at 9am. Jessica has a link? This happens every year and the outgoing chair does this -- it's a press event.
- Q: Any particular issue we should bring up when we comment on covid? Same as usual - increase space, increase service for social distancing, shutting down service. On security -- we should be concerned about Metro defunding police and looking at contracts. 1 billion policing contract that is up for renewal.
- No Metro committee or board meetings in july
- Planning committee 6/17 and Exec management committee 6/18 - Modernizing the metro highway program, line 8. This came about last

year, work group staffed to align highway programs with newer models like vehicular miles traveled (VMT). It's been a successful group - this is the result of their efforts.

- Q: Is item 8 more than south bay? Yes! This gives policy cover for active transportation work in highway budgets. Some of this is local return money - so can use that for complete streets. South bay moving highway money to public transportation projects.
- This is a policy language change that has cascading effects!
- Expect some committee membership to change July 1
- Budget, expecting loss of revenue. Investing in Place trying to figure out how to do a budget analysis published in late July. Metro can't do all of the capital improvement projects anymore -- so how do will the region "pick" what does get implemented. In September Metro will adopt a revised budget.
- Progress ! People's budget LA is inspiring. Check out the presentation they gave to Council President Martinez and other Council members this week here:<https://peoplesbudgetla.com>
- Q: Shoup's office has done budget analysis before. Can we use these as a resource? - Eli
- Q: Worried about inequities of projects getting deferred vs accelerated (river path vs beverly hills), more postponed projects are at risk of losing state and federal funding/
- Metro has been developing some equity tools - we can put these to the test here -- are they cancelling projects based on race/gender/ social economic or burden considerations. Hopefully we can hold them accountable to their own policies.
- Slauson Rail to River corridor project - is showing up being delayed b/c Metro is trying to save money, but we are hearing Slauson has really high ridership during pandemic. LA has least loss of ridership in the nation during the pandemic.
- Bucket 1, bucket 2 - projects in 1 are moving forward, 2 are not -- but no communication around why/how things ended up either bucket.
- Moving on to discussion around projects happening in Downtown City of Los Angeles. This group has been focused lately less on policy and more on projects -- so for example the bus rapid lanes downtown.

### **3:50 Discussion on Projects in downtown Los Angeles**

- Makenzi Rasey, Director of Government Affairs at LADOT also joining the call

- Group discussion on project, concerns, questions, process and next steps. Idea for walking the corridor Monday Morning June 22nd.
- [Link to presentation and maps from LADOT here](#)

### Details:

- **Bus only Lanes 5th and 6th: a westbound bus only lane on 5th Street and an eastbound bus only lane on 6th Street, between Flower Street and Central Avenue.**
  - Weekdays between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM
  - Over 80 buses per hour currently use either 5th or 6th Streets, or a bus every 45 seconds
  - Lane painted Red
  - Que Jumper - installed in 2021 at Fifth and Flower - tho mid block
  - All Door Boarding

- **5th Street Detail**

- Bus lanes go from the mid-block crosswalk between Flower Street/Grand Avenue to Central Avenue
- Resurfacing begins 6/18 and goes through 6/23; Paving goes from 6/24-6/26
- Striping to be completed in early July
- Upon completion of the Regional Connector, the bus lanes will be extended west to Figueroa Street
- As part of the NextGen study, Metro is evaluating moving some existing lines off of 7th Street to 5th/6th Streets to increasing bus reliability in speed in DTLA

- **6th Street Detail**

- Bus lanes go from Flower St to Central Avenue
- Resurfacing begins 6/15 and goes through 6/18; restriping begins 6/18 and goes through 6/19
- Striping to be completed in early July
- Upon completion of the Regional Connector, the bus lanes will be extended west to Figueroa Street

- As part of the NextGen study, Metro is evaluating moving some existing lines off of 7th Street to 5th/6th Streets to increasing bus reliability in speed in DTLA
- **Buffered Bike Lanes - On 5th and 6th from Central Avenue to Spring Street**
  - Funded by California Active Transportation Grant
  - Project limits reflect bike lanes priorities discussed with Skid Row community during Fall 2018/Winter 2019 as part of a grant application (LA CAN and LACBC)
  - Protected (bollards/cars) bike lanes begin at Spring Street and go to Central Avenue
- **Bus Only Lane and Bike Lanes on Olive**
  - Project goes from 7th Street to Pico Blvd
  - Existing buffered bike lanes will be swapped to the west/left side of the street and will become parking protected bike lanes
  - Bus lanes will not be installed at this time, but the street will be striped so that they can easily be installed pending community outreach
  - Resurfacing has already begun
  - Striping will begin late June/early July
- **Bus Only Lane and Bike Lanes on Grand**
  - Project is still in the design stages, but will swap the bike lanes to the west/left side of the street to become parking protected bike lanes
  - Limits still TBD
  - Project will be implemented after community outreach and coordination with StreetsLA on street resurfacing
- **Bus only Lanes Aliso Street (Spring to Alameda)**

**Who is leading this project?**

- Council District 14
- LA DOT
- Metro

- Streets LA/BSS

## Notes & Discussion:

Updates from LA DOT - Bus only and bike lanes on 5th&6th

- Director of gov affairs, so leading on political strategy and communicating with council staff. Rest of staff is currently doing outreach with businesses
- First group technical group, started second group the external relations.
- Getting installed in the next few weeks,
- Starting with 5th / 6th to build out proof of concept. Iron out problems with implementation before going bigger. Complications b/c already planned bike lanes, needed repainting.
- ADAPT program to repave commercial streets during pandemic accelerating implementation of this project.
- Project will be implemented by the end of month - but also b/c this is ahead of schedule, wasn't able to share cross sections and do expected community input before now.
- Have already gotten feedback on street lights and improved safety for pedestrians.
- 5th - 6th - over 80 buses per hour. Lanes will be painted red.
- Concern with the need for "queue jumper" let's buses jump ahead of traffic.
- Will have all-door boarding? I think so.
- Coordination between internal staff and communication has been less than ideal around ADAPT. However this is happening \*NOW.\*
- So this is frustrating as it's hard to imagine how our input will shape things on 5th and 6th -- however there may be opportunity for more input on future streets.
- Queue jumper won't be installed until next year b/c of regional connector construction.
- (view photos on slides)
- This has always been a dangerous stretch. Hopefully this will help flow, but we're going to need a lot of outreach and signage how to use the streets (drivers/people catching the bus/curbside and access). Having worked on this corner, this is the site of so many near misses - because of slope. I'm concerned about visibility and the buses are safe. Presentations have been about street surface, but not on signaling, signage, dropoffs/ pickups for goods, bike lane

crossing etiquette, outreach and education. Who is the outreach coordinator?

- Worried about the confusion on Spring and Main and 7th not being solved here on 5th and 6th. Worried we are not going to meet the safety goal.
- Sounds like we need more outreach on how to use the street, before/ during/ after.
- Where does a vehicle drop someone off? Where do goods vehicles stop? Just naturally pick a place?
- Focus on parking and Loading zones other needs, but not around long term engagement. Metro is the lead on engagement, but LA City.
- Hard to share this b/c we've been talking about it since October and now it's "cooked." One challenge is the lack of council member right now for CD 14.
- Paint, it's good to see red paint is part of the design but confused b/c recent interaction with DOT the process didn't seem consistent in how paint would be applied. DOT had to go to the state to get approval to do paint on Fig and another section. Maybe others can speak to this? Federal guidelines say you can now paint red without approval but only if you paint the whole lane? What about FilmLA? So private agencies dictating what can be done on public streets. Who's paying for the paint? Does it say bus only?
- Understanding there is always an open FilmLA question? Probably a street by street consideration.
- We still don't know if it's a red square or a full carpet?
- Q: Paratransit - are there specific pick and drop off spaces? I don't think so? New or existing maintained? Will it be a problem b/c of bike or bus lanes? Can you get dropped off at every address -- I don't know. Concern on 7th street - pickup/dropoff means you still have to cross a bike lane.
- Cross sections show only one condition for one place -- not the whole treatment.
- Happy ADAPT was able to move forward, but concerned about lack of improvement from users. It would help if we knew when we might next have the opportunity to provide input or feedback on 5th and 6th, such as later in October after implementation. Esp considerations for Spring and Olive
- Red paint, at the state level we need legislation that says we can use cameras to enforce bus only lanes. Yes? Metro and DOT

proposed use of cameras on buses to issue citations. Bill introduced, but was cut b/c of covid. Will try again next year.

- There's a lot of details people are bringing up that are important.
- Once the project is live? How do people say this isn't working for me? Part of the reason we are only doing "one" bus-only lanes, is so that we can hear/ figure this out.
- Bike lanes with Bollards on 5th and 6th: Thanks to LA CAN ( Pete White, General Dogon, Steve Diaz) and LACBC (Lynsdesy Nolan, Cesar Hernandez, Jesi Harris) for making this happen!
- Olive Street
- What do people want to do about this? Grand and Olive is going to get repaved, right now only putting in bike lanes, but maybe bus lanes -- so we might be able to have more input into these.
- So talking about a memo or letter on Monday? Metro, DOT, Mayor's Office, CD 14 - we are excited, but concerned about the process. Should we do this? Yes.
- What's the best way to look at international practices?
- We struggle to get transparency and coordination, this feels hard.
- What about presenting this information from an equity perspective? For example this is how we expect these changes to improve/ stay the same/ or be a challenge for example wheelchair users.
- Biz outreach? Many property owners are interested, but don't know it's coming.
- What enforcement of the bus lane might look like? Can we get a report back on this topic? Including as part of the Metro policing contract? Who does this? What would they be tasked with doing. Nervous about a bunch of cops enforcing bus lanes and then harassing homeless folks hanging out in bike lanes nearby.
- We should talk about safety and policing in memo.
- We should also start thinking about what we're doing on olive -- and reaching out to incoming City Council members. How do we keep the pace of what's happening -- so talking to incoming council members.
- So email Jessica if you want to walk on Monday or help with a memo.
- Who's ready to move to another council district for bus only lanes! Working group is now looking at other council districts.
- Also check out ACT LA's transit justice group and work on defunding police on transit.

- Next steps -- Olive and Grand is being repaved, adding bike lanes, but putting off bus only lanes b/c of fatigue. So need community to keep demanding these and providing feedback on what the process needs to look like. We'd love to have you back! External affairs groups is finally hitting their stride and momentum. Would like to be able to come back and talk about more and building power!
- Flower - we're working through environmental process
- Aliso - no timeline, b/c other projects, but is moving forward.
- Do you have a process doc you can share? Metro is leading so using theirs, but we've definitely that.
- The story of success needs to be told the way Flower street's was told. Worried we might miss this opportunity - so let's flag this as something to work on.
- Metro did a presentation a few weeks ago to CCA per CCA's request. So some owners downtown have been engaged. No outcries have been heard so far from this group.
- Biz owners are important, but Metro doesn't engage bus riders.
- *Hi all, just FYI, my office (CD 4) is encouraging folks to submit comments on the budget to the public council file here: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment/?cfnumber=20-0600>. In addition to calling in for public comment and contacting your council member, comments submitted to the council file remain visibly on the record (unlike calls) and are visible to everyone (unlike emails to your CM).*
- *Comments will live on the council file here (<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-0600>), you can see others under "communication from public".*
- Note public comments on file with City of Los Angeles are more visible than email and phone calls. So see council file system links shared above. Are there specific items? Yes, there will be an item at [City Council on Friday](#). Item [19-0885](#)

### Next Steps:

- [Next steps google doc](#)
- Thursday June 18th Operations Committee
- Monday June 22nd Walking 5th and 6th
- Next walking Grand and Olive?
- Memo on 5th & 6th Project

- Better Buses for LA Work Group Meeting - July 21st (no committee/Board meetings in July)

## Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Bart	Reed	The Transit Coalition
Brent	Bovenzi	
Brian	Cole	UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Cameron	Phillips	LACP
Carolyn	Angius	
Carter	Rubin	NRDC
Clara	Karger	
Cynde	Soto	Communities Actively Living Independent & Free
Deborah	Murphy	Deborah Murphy Urban Design + Planning
doreen	Morrissey	LA Metro
Edgar	Mejia	ITDP
Eli	Lipmen	Move LA
Franci	Levine-Grater	LANI
francois	nion	JCDecaux
Hannah	Gibson	
Hilary	Norton	FASTLinkDTLA
Isabelle	Garvanne	
Jayro	Queme	
Jennifer	Gill	LABAC

jessica	jinn	nrdc
Joe	Eyen	FlixBus
John	Yi	Los Angeles Walks
Justine	Johnson	Ford Mobility
Khalilha	Haynes	
Lorenzo	Mutia	
Lynne	Tien	
Makenzi	Rasey	LADOT
Marcel	Flores	
Mehmet	Berker	Los Angeles Walks
Nina	Kin	LA Metro
Oscar	Peña	
Paola	Mendez	CD 4
Priscilla	Freduah-Agyemang	SCAG
Reed	Alvarado	FASTLinkDTLA
Rina	Vela	Stantec
Rogelio	Pardo	
Ryan	Snyder	
Sandra	Romero	LISC LA
Steve	Fox	SCAG
Susana	Andres	Celtis Ventures, Inc
Varun	Bather	
Vyki	Englert	Compiler LA
Will	Proctor	LA Metro

Yessica	Hernandez	
---------	-----------	--