September 9, 2021

TO: Los Angeles Board of Public Works
   • Greg Good, Board President
   • Aura Garcia, Vice President
   • Mike Davis, President Pro Tempore
   • Jessica M. Caloza
   • M. Teresa Villegas

RE: Council File 20-1536 Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP)

Dear Board of Public Works,

We are writing to express our concern regarding the importance of transparency in relation to bus shelter financing. With the STAP program deciding on who to enter into a contract with, there are still many questions to be answered regarding how funding will significantly affect improving the bus rider experience in Los Angeles. We request that the funding estimates for the bus shelter program be made available before the contract is
presented at the Board of Public Works and Los Angeles City Council. We are fully supportive of StreetsLA’s staff recommendation of covering 100% costs of the programs foreseen capital expenditures (CAPEX). However, we do not know where this money will be coming from, the cost of the program, whether Metro is contributing to the effort, and how many shelters will be installed in Year 1. In addition, would there be funding made available for making bus stops around the shelters ADA accessible, and how would the program work with streetscape improvements such as broken sidewalks, widening sidewalks, and tree planting. Additionally, how are bus stop investments tied into bus lanes and other transit operational improvements? Will bus stop improvements include better wayfinding and other customer experience improvements that support first-last mile connectivity? Investments should support ridership growth and broader infrastructure improvements that enhance service, such as Metro’s NextGen Bus Plan.

The public deserves to know the thoughts and plans of the City, and how this program will connect with a holistic and healthy urban design vision for our public realm, before the contract is proposed for a vote of approval from City Council. We believe the lack of an integrated approach is a systemic issue that goes beyond this project, but as the largest city in the US without a capital infrastructure plan, we do not have a clear picture of where public works and transportation funds have gone over the years and are not able to see a publicly accessible future funding plan or implementation goals and timelines. However, in the short-term, we request that the funding estimates for the bus shelter program be made available prior to the contract being introduced to the Board of Public Works and Los Angeles City Council.

Sincerely,

Organizations:

Communities Actively Living Independent & Free, Cynde Soto
Community Arts Resources, Aaron Paley
FASTLinkDTLA, Hilary Norton
Investing in Place, Jessica Meaney
LA Forward Action, Marcel Flores
LA River Communities for Environmental Equity, Christine Louise Mills
Long Beach Environmental Alliance, John Kindred
Los Angeles Walks, John Yi
Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition. Tom Grode
Streets for All, Michael Schneider
The River Project, Melanie Winter
The Transit Coalition, Bart Reed

**Individuals:**
Alexis Lantz
Andrew Bleich
Deborah Murphy
Diane Velez
Griffin Rowell
Jacob Wasserman
Jamie York
John Perry
Joseph Clark
Jen Wang
Kris Miranda
Leslie Graham
Lorenzo Mutia
Lynne Tien
Marissa Ayala
Paul Zheng
Ray Dang
Rebecca Pynoos
Till Stegers
Virginia Wexman
Vito Grillo
Will Wright

CC: Los Angeles City Council

- Nury Martinez, President
- Joe Buscaino, President Pro Tempore
- Gil Cedillo
- Paul Krekorian
- Bob Blumenfield
- Nithya Raman
- Paul Koretz
- Monica Rodriguez
- Marqueece Harris-Dawson
- Curren D. Price, Jr.
- Mark Ridley-Thomas
- Mike Bonin
- John Lee
- Mitch O'Farrell
- Kevin de León