

# INVESTING *in* PLACE

January 11, 2022

RE: **Council File 21-1469** Street Maintenance and Repair Program

Public Works Committee:

Chair Bob Blumenfield

Councilmember John Lee

Councilmember Kevin De León

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

Councilmember Paul Koretz

Dear Chair Blumenfield and Public Works Committee:

In November 2021, the Los Angeles City Controller's office released an audit: [Repairing LA's Broken Sidewalk Strategy](#). Investing in Place applauds the Office of the City Controller and their work to reveal what we have long suspected in Los Angeles: LA's sidewalks are broken, inaccessible and have not seen meaningful investments since the 1970's.

We are excited to see Council File 21-1469 begin to address many of the issues raised in the Controller's audit on the City's sidewalk program.

After reviewing the recent audit, the pending motion and our work on the Sidewalk Repair Program for the past several years, Investing in Place supports the following recommendations:

- Funding a professional inventory of the sidewalks
- Eliminating the outdated policy of fix and release
- Involving our mobility and transportation experts at LADOT in the entire sidewalk/crosswalk program
- Committing significant funding from the new federal infrastructure bill Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Thank you for your consideration of our ideas.

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Sincerely,



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**Background:** *On Wednesday January 12th at 2PM, the City of Los Angeles Public Works Committee will be meeting to discuss improvements regarding the sidewalk program (CF 21-1469). This motion, in response to the City Controller's November 2021 sidewalk program audit, requires the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to report back within 60 days with recommendations:*

- *To prioritize the mitigation of access barriers over existing sidewalks and driveways in good condition*
- *Reprioritize funding for sidewalk repair above and beyond the Willits settlement*
- *Reconsideration of the City's Fix and Release policy*
- *Better coordinating with other street improvement projects*
- *Governance changes to ensure that sidewalk funding are coordinated and reflect City priorities*
- *Report whether funding from the federal infrastructure bill could be applied to sidewalk programs.*