



August 23, 2022

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Letter sent via email to each councilmember

Subject: Support for Safe Streets Motion filed under Council File #15-0719-S26

Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

In Los Angeles, the fact that street and sidewalk conditions can drastically change depending on your income, race, and neighborhood is a testament to the long standing inequity in how infrastructure has historically been built. Certain neighborhoods have smooth streets and flat sidewalks, regular streetlights, accessible public parks and other facilities while in other communities people daily face undignified mobility, forced to walk in the street because of a lack of sidewalks, bike through dark streets, and stand at sub-baked bus stops without shade or seats. For too long, white and affluent neighborhoods, with ample resources and political capital are able to advocate for public investments while working class communities and communities of color get sidelined.

There is no stronger example of Los Angeles's need for safe and sustainable streets than the staggering prevalence and disparate impact of traffic violence in Los Angeles on working class communities and

communities of color. The UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies reported in 2020 that, in the City of Los Angeles, Black Angelenos make up 18% of pedestrians killed in traffic violence, which represents two times the City's Black population. They also found that the majority of cyclists killed by traffic violence in the City are Latino.

The poorest and most vulnerable residents are both much more likely to depend on walking, public transit, and bicycles while at the same time more likely to be forced to navigate dangerous streets that lack basic infrastructure. Far too often, the city underinvested in communities where infrastructure such as bus shelters, bus lanes, cross walks, sidewalks, and street trees would make moving around the city without a car safer and more pleasant. Investing in this infrastructure will not only create a more sustainable city but also a more equitable one.

For this reason, we urge you to support the Safe Streets motion filed under Council File 15-0719-S26. Rooted in equity and assuring that Angelenos most impacted by our unsafe streets are prioritized, we see this policy as the best pathway forward to assuring the Mobility Plan's full and intended implementation. The Safe Streets motion was created in collaboration with transportation equity organizations from across the City. It calls for systematic reforms to the way the city implements mobility infrastructure by aligning the multiple city departments that work in the public right of way toward a common goal of investing in equitable and sustainable public infrastructure. Most importantly, it has equity at its core and will focus on immediate improvements where they are needed the most. We must act quickly to design and build out infrastructure that addresses the needs and concerns of communities, beginning with communities that have been sidelined for generations.

It is critical to re-align Los Angeles's investments in its public infrastructure in order to address long standing inequity as well as the climate crisis. We must do this in a way that prioritizes infrastructure in the communities with the highest needs first and lifts up the voices of people who often walk, bike, and ride transit around the city.

We look forward to continuing to engage with you as this motion moves through the process.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Community Transit (ACT-LA)
Community Power Collective (CPC)
Investing in Place
Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA)
Los Angeles Walks
Little Tokyo Service Center
Pacoima Beautiful
People for Mobility Justice
Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)
Trust South LA
Gr818ers