



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
PAUL KREKORIAN
COUNCILMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

November 6, 2023

The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Chair, Committee on Planning and Land Use Management
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Proposed Ordinance: Metro Transportation Communication Network

Dear Chairman Harris-Dawson:

I am writing in strong support of the Metro Transportation Communication Network (TCN), as proposed in the draft ordinance.

The TCN would provide substantial benefits to the City of Los Angeles, Metro, passengers, pedestrians and the entire community. First among these is the system's capacity for sharing information in real time, including emergencies, natural disaster warnings, missing person alerts, and congestion management. The TCN would also reduce blight by requiring the removal of 200 of the oldest and most decrepit billboards currently scarring the City's landscape. Of course, the TCN will also generate much needed revenue for enhanced transportation infrastructure, including investments in life-saving traffic interventions and active transportation improvements, as well as the installation of public art.

It is no secret that the City has struggled for many years to reach consensus on the broader issues involved in signage, and there are divisive arguments among those who hold divergent views on the topic. This ordinance, however, provides a narrow and focused pathway to help build a broader consensus. The program is site specific and transparent, it provides the City and Metro with important regulatory authority, it meets our environmental requirements, and it provides substantial measurable benefits over the lifetime of the Agreement. It will enhance our existing transportation infrastructure as well as those improvements to the system we have planned for the future.

I would like to commend the City Planning Commission and the Department of City Planning staff for their diligent and collaborative work on the ordinance. As presented, the ordinance meets the needs of the program while ensuring its financial viability. Both City and Metro staffs have worked painstakingly for many years to produce the ordinance before you today. It has been exhaustively vetted and scrutinized in a very public and open process. All the sites have been thoroughly examined for suitability in the Environmental Impact Report.

Recognizing the extensive and excellent work that has gone into the design of this program and drafting of the ordinance, I request only the following minor revisions:

1. The distance between signs on highways should be 1,500 feet, a 50 percent increase from the State and CalTrans mandate of 1,000 feet.
2. The process of removing static billboards should be modified to require that, for freeway-facing TCN structure, Metro must remove 50 existing offsite signs within the City boundary before the first TCN building permit is issued. Thereafter, Metro should remove a minimum of four existing offsite signs within the City boundary for each new TCN structure to be installed.

For non-freeway TCN structures, Metro should remove three square feet of static signage for each square foot of TCN structure. The signs to be removed should be those standing within a half-mile radius of the new TCN structure. This radius could be expanded to a full mile if MTA determines there is not enough existing static sign inventory to meet the half-mile requirement, or if owners of these static signs refuse to remove them.

3. The hours of TCN operation of freeway-facing signs should begin no earlier than one hour after Metro begins rail service, and should end no later than one hour before Metro ceases rail service.
4. The ordinance should sunset when the Memorandum of Agreement between the City and Metro regarding the TCN is terminated by either party or expires.

For the reasons previously stated, and with the modifications specified above, I ask for your support for the draft ordinance, and I thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Paul Krekorian
President, Los Angeles City Council

cc: Councilmember John Lee, Vice Chair
Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky
Councilmember Imelda Padilla
Councilmember Heather Hutt