

ORDINANCE NO. 188082

An ordinance establishing a Transportation Communication Network District pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 13.11.1 on properties throughout the City of Los Angeles owned by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to permit signs with digital displays.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION
COMMUNICATION NETWORK (TCN) DISTRICT.**

The City Council hereby establishes the Transportation Communication Network (TCN) District, which shall be applicable to those areas of the City shown within the heavy dashed lines on the accompanying Zone Change maps at the time of district adoption, and which properties are owned by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Sec. 2. PURPOSES.

The TCN District is intended to:

- A. Enable the regulation of Signs within the Transportation Communication Network (TCN) District area located on contiguous and noncontiguous Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority parcels in the City by incorporating unique Sign regulations and substantial Off-Site Sign reduction requirements;
- B. Assist in management and communication regarding transit and freeways for residents, employees, and visitors citywide, including for special events;
- C. Ensure timely communications of public safety alerts, emergency management messaging, and intelligent transportation messages to the general public;
- D. Permit new off-site digital display messages that will generate revenue to support transportation projects throughout the City of Los Angeles; and
- E. Enable a visual blight reduction program associated with new Off-Site Digital Displays that will result in an overall reduction in static Off-Site Signs citywide, many in proximity to the proposed Digital Displays resulting in a net reduction in overall Off-Site Signs and Sign Area.

Sec. 3. APPLICATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL USE DISTRICT REGULATIONS.

- A. **This Ordinance regulates Signs within the TCN District.** The regulations of this Ordinance are in addition to those set forth in Chapter 1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (Code); or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A, Chapter 1A of the Code. Except as specifically provided for in this Ordinance, these regulations do not

convey any rights not otherwise granted under the provisions and procedures contained in the Code or other relevant Ordinances.

B. Relationship to the Los Angeles Municipal Code. Wherever this Ordinance contains provisions which establish regulations that are different from, more restrictive than or more permissive than would be allowed pursuant to the provisions contained in the Code, Supplemental Use District, Specific Plan or other Ordinance, this Ordinance shall prevail and supersede those otherwise applicable regulations. However, in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code, in the event that there is a conflict between the TCN regulations and regulations established in an HPOZ or Conservation District (CD), the more restrictive regulation shall prevail. Unless otherwise specified in this Ordinance to the contrary, in areas subject to zoning established under Chapter 1 of the Code, all Signs shall comply with the following provisions of the Code: Chapter I, Article 4.4 (Sign Regulations); or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code: Chapter 1A, Article 4 (Development Standards), Division 4C.11 (Signs). Additionally, unless otherwise specified in this Ordinance to the contrary, all Signs, both in areas subject to zoning established under Chapter 1 of the Code and in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code, shall comply with the provisions of Chapter VI, Article 7 (Outdoor Advertising Structures, Accessory Signs, Post Signs and Advertising Statuary); Chapter IX, Article 1, Division 62 (Signs); and Chapter 1A, Article 13 (Administration) Part 13B (Processes & Procedures) of the Code.

C. Chapter 1A Citations. Citation and section references to Chapter 1A of the Code in this document reflect accurate citations at the time of the adoption of this Ordinance. Chapter 1A section numbers, article and division names, and citations are subject to change as a result of future Code amendments and updates. The current section, article, and/or division names are provided herein with each citation in order to aid in finding the correct Chapter 1A Code section in the event that section, division, article, or reference numbers subsequently change without a corresponding amendment to this Ordinance.

D. On-Site and Off-Site Signs. For the purposes of this Ordinance, the TCN District shall permit both On-Site and Off-Site Signs as such terms are defined in this Ordinance. This Ordinance governs all aspects of Signs that are Off-Site Signs within the TCN District.

Sec. 4. DEFINITIONS.

The following terms, when used in this Ordinance, are defined below or cross-referenced to definitions used in the Code. To the extent that other terms used in this Ordinance are not listed below but are defined in the Code, those definitions shall apply. The definitions set forth in this section are intended to encompass future technologies and materials which may be utilized in the construction or implementation of the Signs permitted.

Animation. Movement, including, but not limited to, flashing, changing, moving, streaming, scrolling, blinking of any part of a Sign, including, but not limited to, images, parts, or illumination at a rate of more than once every 24 hours.

Digital Display. A Sign face, building face, and/or any building or structural component that displays still images, scrolling images, moving images, or flashing images, including video and animation, through the use of grid lights, cathode ray projections, light emitting diode displays, plasma screens, liquid crystal displays, fiber optics, or other electronic media or technology that is either independent of or attached to, or integrated into a building or structural component, and that may be changed remotely through electronic means.

Caltrans. California Department of Transportation.

Code. Los Angeles Municipal Code.

Controlled Refresh Rate. Restriction for any type of Sign that contains images, text, parts of illumination which flash, change, move, blink or otherwise refresh, in whole or in part, at a maximum of one refresh event per eight seconds (i.e., must stay static for a minimum of eight seconds before refreshing). Each refresh event shall be an instant transition.

Freeway. A highway that the owners or those in possession of abutting land have no right or easement of access to or from their abutting lands or that owners have only limited or restricted right or easement of access, and that is declared to be a freeway, in compliance with the Streets and Highways Code of the State of California.

Freeway Facing Sign. An Off-Site Sign that consists of a Digital Display(s) on a Transportation Communication Network Support Structure viewed primarily from a Freeway on a property that is contiguous or non-contiguous with other properties within the TCN District.

LACMTA (Metro). Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

LADBS. Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety.

LED. Light Emitting Diodes.

Maximum Individual Sign Area. The maximum Sign Area of each individual Sign, which shall be as set forth in Tables 7-1 and 7-2, below.

Non-Freeway Facing Sign. An Off-Site Sign that consists of a Digital Display(s) on a Transportation Communication Network Support Structure viewed primarily from a roadway other than a freeway, on a property that is contiguous or non-contiguous with other properties within the TCN District.

Off-Site Sign. A Sign that displays any message directing attention to a business, product, service, profession, commodity, activity, event, person, institution or any other commercial message, which is generally conducted, sold, manufactured, produced, offered or occurs elsewhere than on the premises where the Sign is located.

On-Site Sign. A Sign that is other than an Off-Site Sign.

Sign. Any whole or part of a display board, wall, screen or object used to announce, declare, demonstrate, display or otherwise present a message and attract the attention of the public.

Sign Area. An area circumscribed by the smallest geometric shape created with a maximum of eight straight lines, which will enclose all words, letters, figures, symbols, designs and pictures, together with all framing, background material, colored or illuminated areas and attention-attracting devices, forming an integral part of an individual message except that for spherical, cylindrical or other three-dimensional Signs, the area of the Sign shall be computed from the smallest two-dimensional geometrical shape or shapes, which will best approximate the greatest actual surface area visible from any one direction.

Transportation Communication Network Support Structures and any required public art is excluded from the Sign Area calculation.

Sign Face. The surface upon which the Sign message is placed.

Transportation Communication Network Support Structure (TCN Support Structure). A structure erected, used or maintained for a Digital Display(s) upon which a commercial or non-commercial message may be placed, that further incorporates transportation related technologies, including but not limited to real-time traffic updates and transit and emergency system alerts and updates and includes off-site advertising.

Transportation Communication Network Program (TCN Program). A program implemented by the LACMTA consisting of a network of Transportation Communication Network Support Structures with Digital Displays that inform the traveling public regarding matters of public interest and safety and also allow for off-site advertising. Signs that are

part of the TCN Program shall be identified as Freeway Facing Signs and Non-Freeway Facing Signs.

Sec. 5. **PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.**

A. **Overview**

LADBS shall not issue any permit for a Sign, a Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and Digital Display(s) or alteration of an existing Sign within the TCN District unless the Sign complies with:

1. The applicable requirements of this Ordinance as determined by the Director of Planning (Director) through an Administrative Clearance or a Project Permit Compliance; and
2. Applicable requirements of the Code that are not otherwise superseded by this Ordinance as determined by the Director.

B. **Development Review Process**

The TCN District project review process consists of an Administrative Clearance for Freeway Facing Signs and a Project Permit Compliance review for Non-Freeway Facing Signs:

1. **Administrative Clearance.** Freeway Facing Signs that comply with all applicable regulations in this Ordinance shall require an Administrative Clearance pursuant to Section 12.32 S.4 of Chapter 1 of the Code, or, when applicable, Section 13B.3.1 (Administrative Review) of Article 13 (Administration) of Chapter 1A of the Code. An applicant requesting review for conformance with this Ordinance shall submit the following:
 - a. Photographs of all existing site conditions, including any existing Signs (if any).
 - b. Architectural renderings of proposed Transportation Communication Network Support Structure(s) and Digital Display(s).
 - c. A Sign plan drawn to scale, indicating the type, height, placement, lettering styles, materials, colors and lighting methods.
 - d. A scaled plot plan or site plan showing the location and size of all existing and proposed Signs on the applicable site.
 - e. Elevations for all sides of the Transportation Communication Network Support Structure(s) with Digital Display(s) showing the maximum heights, with all views labeled, including which side of the

Transportation Communication Network Support Structure(s) and Digital Display(s) are being illustrated (North, South, East and/or West elevations).

f. Identification of the illumination standards, refresh rate, hours of operation and any other information required by the Director to determine conformance.

g. Prior to the issuance of an Administrative Clearance, proof of compliance with the Sign Reduction provisions set forth in Section 8 of this Ordinance, as determined by the Director, shall be submitted.

h. No Administrative Clearance, shall be required for: (a) the maintenance, repair, or in-kind replacement of any previously approved Sign which is in substantial conformance with the previous Administrative Clearance, or (b) any construction for which a permit is required in order to comply with an order issued by LADBS to repair or replace an unsafe or substandard conditions.

2. **Project Permit Compliance.** All Non-Freeway Facing Signs require a Project Permit Compliance pursuant to Section 11.5.7 of Chapter 1, or, when applicable, Section 13B.4.2 (Project Compliance) of Article 13 (Administration) of Chapter 1A of the Code.

a. **Application.** An application for Project Permit Compliance shall comply with the procedures set forth in Section 11.5.7 C of Chapter 1, or, when applicable, Section 13B.4.2 (Project Compliance) of Article 13 (Administration) of Chapter 1A, of the Code. The application may be inclusive of all or a portion of the proposed Non-Freeway Facing Signs within a given Community Plan Area or by individually proposed Non-Freeway Facing Signs. The application shall include:

(i) Photographs of all existing site conditions, including any existing Signs (if any).

(ii) Architectural renderings of proposed Transportation Communication Network Support Structures and Digital Display(s).

(iii) A Sign plan drawn to scale, indicating the type, height, placement, lettering styles, materials, colors and lighting methods.

(iv) A scaled plot plan or site plan showing the location and size of all existing and proposed Signs on the applicable site.

(v) Elevations for all sides of the Transportation Communication Network Support Structure(s) with Digital Display(s) showing the maximum heights, with all views labeled, including which side of the Transportation Communication Network Support Structure(s) and Digital Display(s) are being illustrated (North, South, East or West elevations).

(vi) Identify the refresh rate, hours of operation and include an illumination plan for the proposed Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and Digital Display(s), prepared by a lighting design expert to ensure compliance with the regulations set forth in Section 6 I.2 of this Ordinance.

(vii) Compliance with the Sign Reduction provisions set forth in Section 8 of this Ordinance, as determined by the Director, shall be submitted.

b. **Findings.** The Director shall make the findings required in Section 11.5.7 C.2 of Chapter 1, or, when applicable, Subsection E (Standards for Review and Required Findings) of Section 13B.4.2 (Project Compliance) of Article 13 (Administration) of Chapter 1A of the Code. Such findings shall be used to condition the project that otherwise meets the requirements of this Ordinance and Section 13.11.1 of Chapter 1; or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A, Section 8.2.8 (Transportation Communication Network Districts (TCN)) of Chapter 1A.

c. **Requests for Modifications to and Deviations from Regulations.** Modifications to a Project Permit Compliance, Project Permit Adjustments, and exceptions to this Ordinance shall follow Sections 11.5.7 D-F of Chapter 1 or, when applicable, Section 13B.4.4 (Project Adjustment) or Section 13B.4.5 (Project Exception) of Article 13 (Administration) of Chapter 1A of the Code, respectively, and in addition, shall make the following finding:

(i) a modification, adjustment or exception, as applicable, would not constitute a grant of special privilege. No Project Permit Compliance, Project Permit Adjustment or any exception, shall be required for: (a) maintenance, repair, or in-kind replacement of any previously approved Sign and is in substantial conformance with the previous approval, or (b) any construction for which a permit is required in order to comply with an order issued by LADBS to repair or replace an unsafe or substandard conditions.

d. **Appeal Authority.** The appeal rights set forth in Section 11.5.7 of Chapter 1 or, when applicable, Section 13B.4.2 (Project Compliance) of Chapter 1A of Article 13 (Administration) of Chapter 1A of the Code shall apply to applications made under this Ordinance, except as otherwise modified by this Ordinance. Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 11.5.7 B through E of Chapter 1 of the Code; or, when applicable, Subdivision 2 (Decision Maker) of Subsection G of Section 13B.4.2 (Project Compliance), Subdivision 2 (Decision Maker) of Subsection G of Section 13B.4.4 (Project Adjustment), or Subdivision 2 (Decision Maker) of Subsection G of Section 13B.4.5 (Project Exception) of Article 13 (Administration) of Chapter 1A of the Code, in each case where the Area Planning Commission has the authority for appeal of a request for Project Permit Compliance, Project Permit Adjustment, modification to a Project Permit Compliance, or an exception from or amendment or interpretation of this Ordinance, such authority shall be vested in the City Planning Commission in place of the Area Planning Commission.

C. **Exempt Signs.** No Signs are exempt from review under the regulations of the TCN District.

D. **Plan Approval and Five-Year Update.** No later than five (5) years from the date of the issuance of a final permit for the Transportation Communication Network Program as authorized by this Ordinance, the applicant shall file a Plan Approval application for review by the Zoning Administrator pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 12.24 M of Chapter 1 or, when applicable, Section 13B.6.1 (Evaluation of Non-Compliance) of Chapter 1A of the Code for Non-Freeway Facing Signs. The operator shall collect annual collision data where the Digital Displays are visible to motorists over the five-year period. The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) will review the collision data and provide recommendations to the Director with respect to the Plan Approval application. Upon this review, the Director may modify, add or delete conditions; and, if warranted, require changes to the illumination standards, refresh rate, hours of operation, or other operational standards in this Ordinance.

E. **Termination of Sign Rights.**

1. The rights and privileges associated with this Ordinance and the right to operate each permitted Transportation Communication Network Support Structure with a Digital Display(s) shall expire when the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City and LACMTA, dated January 12, 2022, or as amended following the effective date of this Ordinance, expires. At the date of termination, all Transportation Communication Network Support Structures and Digital Displays shall immediately cease all operations and shall be dismantled, demolished or otherwise removed within 180 days after the expiration date. This

provision shall be enumerated and included as a condition in all approvals granted pursuant to Section 5.B of this Ordinance and all associated permits.

2. The rights and privileges associated with this Ordinance and the existence and operation of each permitted Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and Digital Display shall be contingent on the maintenance of ownership by LACMTA of the applicable property on which the Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and Digital Display are located. If at any time any such property is sold or ownership is transferred to an entity not controlled by LACMTA, then the rights and privileges associated with this Ordinance and the existence and operation of any permitted Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and Digital Display(s) on such property shall be terminated and severed from this Ordinance. All applicable Transportation Communication Network Support Structures and Digital Display(s) shall immediately cease all operations and shall be dismantled, demolished or otherwise removed within 180 days of the sale or transfer of said property.

Sec. 6. **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

A. **General Requirements of the Code.** Unless specified in this Ordinance to the contrary, the general Sign requirements set forth in Chapter 1 of the Code, or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code, Chapter 1A, shall apply to this TCN District for permits, plans, design and construction, materials, street address numbers, identification, maintenance, prohibited locations and Sign illumination. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any combined area, height, frontage, and location restrictions in Article 4.4 of Chapter 1 of the Code, or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code, Division 4C.11 (Signs) of Article 4 (Development Standards) of Chapter 1A shall not apply to TCN Support Structures and Digital Displays that are authorized by this Ordinance.

B. **Permitted Signs.** Notwithstanding Section 14.4.4 B of Chapter 1 of the Code, or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code, Section 4C.11.1.C.8 (Prohibited Signs) of Article 4 (Development Standards) of Chapter 1A, Freeway Facing Signs, Non-Freeway Facing Signs, all Signs otherwise permitted by the Code, or previously legally permitted Signs shall be permitted within the TCN District. **All Transportation Communication Network Support Structures with Digital Displays authorized by this Ordinance shall be determined to be property of the underlying property owner at the time of Sign installation and time of Sign termination.**

C. **Prohibited Signs.** Except as otherwise provided, in addition to the prohibitions listed in Section 14.4.4 B of Chapter 1 of the Code or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code, Section 4C.11.1.C.8 (Prohibited Signs) of Article 4 (Development Standards) of Chapter 1A, the following Signs shall be prohibited:

1. Any TCN Support Structure with a Digital Display(s) that has unrestricted Animation.

2. No TCN Support Structure shall be placed over the exterior surface of any opening of a building, doors, vent, or any operable or inoperable window, fixed glass panel or other openings that serve occupants of buildings.

3. Any TCN Support Structure and Digital Display not specifically authorized by this Ordinance or by the Code.

D. **Zoning and Ownership Limitations.** Only parcels owned by LACMTA at the time of adoption of the Ordinance shall be included in the TCN District. For the purposes of this Ordinance, any parcel zoned PF (Public Facilities) in areas of the TCN District subject to Chapter 1 of the Code shall be considered equivalent to a C (Commercial) zone. Any parcel zoned Public (P) Use District (Division 5B.9 (Public Districts) of Chapter 1A) in areas of the TCN District subject to Chapter 1A of the Code shall be considered equivalent to a Commercial-Mixed (CX) Use District (Division 5B.5 (Commercial-Mixed Districts) of Chapter 1A).

E. **Total Sign Area.** The Total Sign Area for all TCN support structures with a Digital Display(s) shall not exceed a maximum of 44,000 square feet of total Sign Area exclusive of public art.

F. **Permitted Signs by Community Plan Area.** A maximum total of 41 Transportation Communication Network Support Structures shall be permitted in the TCN District with a maximum total of 71 Digital Displays. The Transportation Communication Network Support Structures and Digital Displays shall be limited to the following Community Plan Areas, further limited to only the enumerated Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) listed below, and further limited as to the number of Transportation Communication Network Support Structures and Digital Displays for each parcel or set of parcels set forth below:

1. **Arleta - Pacoima Community Plan**

APN: 2523001900 and 2523001901. Maximum of 2 Transportation Communication Network Support Structures and maximum of 4 Digital Displays.

2. **Boyle Heights Community Plan**

APN: 5410009905. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 5410009901. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 5171024908. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 5170010901. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

3. **Central City Community Plan**

APN: 5132029905. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 5149015902. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 1 Digital Display.

APN: 5147035904. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

4. **Central City North Community Plan**

APN: 5173001901. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 5409023941. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 1 Digital Display.

APN: 5409025905. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 5173019901. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 5409021902. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

5. **Encino - Tarzana Community Plan**

APN: 2251002905. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

6. **Granada Hills - Knollwood Community Plan**

APN: 2605001912 and 2605001916. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

7. **Los Angeles International Airport Plan**

APN: 4129028901. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

8. **Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan**

APN: 5415002801. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 5445007903. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

9. **North Hollywood - Valley Village Community Plan**

APN: 2324002901. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 1 Digital Display.

APN: 2307021901. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 1 Digital Display.

10. **Sherman Oaks - Studio City - Toluca Lake - Cahuenga Pass Community Plan**

APN: 2423037910 and 2423037914 and 2423037915 and 2423038902 and 2423038965. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 2423037902 and 2423037908. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 1 Digital Display.

APN: 2423037912, 2423037911 and 2423037919. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 1 Digital Display.

11. **Southeast Los Angeles Community Plan**

APN: 5122024909. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 5101040900. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

12. **South Los Angeles Community Plan**

APN: 5037030900 and 5037030902. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 5001037907. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 1 Digital Display.

13. **Sun Valley - La Tuna Canyon Community Plan**

APN: 2408038900 and 2428038901. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 2632001900 and 2632001901. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

14. **Sylmar Community Plan**

APN: 2603001900 and 2603001901. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

15. **Van Nuys - North Sherman Oaks Community Plan**

APN: 2240008908. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 2242001902 and 2242001904. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 1 Digital Display.

16. **West Adams - Baldwin Hills - Leimert Community Plan**

APN: 4006024900. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 1 Digital Display.

17. **Westchester - Playa del Rey Community Plan**

APN: 4138001902. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 4125026904. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 4128001008. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

18. West Los Angeles Community Plan

APN: 4260039906, Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

APN: 4313024908, Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 1 Digital Display.

APN: 4256010902, Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

19. Wilshire Community Plan

APN: 5520019900 and 5520019902. Maximum of 1 Transportation Communication Network Support Structure and maximum of 2 Digital Displays.

G. General Sign Location Requirements. The location of Signs in the TCN District is subject to the standards identified in Section 7 of this Ordinance and, to the extent not consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, Section 14.4.4.C of Chapter 1 of the Code, or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code, Section 4C.11.1.C.9 (Prohibited Locations) of Article 4 (Development Standards) of Chapter 1A. In addition:

1. Location. TCN Support Structures and associated Digital Displays shall only be located on:

a. parcels zoned C (Commercial), M (Industrial), PF (Public Facilities), CW (Central City Specific Plan), CM (Commercial Manufacturing), ADP (Alameda District Specific Plan) and LAX (Los Angeles International Airport Specific Plan) in accordance with Chapter 1 of the Code;

b. parcels zoned CX (Commercial-Mixed), IX (Industrial-Mixed), I (Industrial), and P (Public Use District) in accordance with Chapter 1A of the Code; or

c. parcels with any such zoning designation that are rezoned to a specific plan zone.

Signage shall be installed in substantial conformance with approximated locations as identified by the Assessor Parcel Numbers as listed in Section 6.F. and Tables 7-1 and 7-2 of this Ordinance. For the purposes of this Ordinance, any parcel zoned PF (Public Facilities) in

areas of the TCN District subject to Chapter 1 of the Code shall be considered equivalent to a C (Commercial) zone. Any parcel zoned Public (P) Use District (Division 5B.9 (Public Districts) of Chapter 1A) in areas of the TCN District subject to Chapter 1A of the Code shall be considered equivalent to a Commercial-Mixed (CX) Use District (Division 5B.5 (Commercial-Mixed Districts) of Chapter 1A.

2. Prohibited Locations.

a. No Freeway Facing Sign or Non-Freeway Facing Sign shall be located within 200 feet of an ecological preserve as defined by California Fish and Wildlife Code Section 1584 or a state or national park.

b. The face of any Freeway Facing Sign or Non-Freeway Facing Sign shall be oriented away from residential zones in areas subject to Chapter 1 of the Code or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code, Residential Use Districts pursuant to Division 5B.3 (Residential Districts) of Article 5 (Use) of Chapter 1A, that are located within 200 feet of such Sign, including residential zones or Residential Use Districts across an adjoining alley or street.

c. Freeway Facing Signs and Non-Freeway Facing Signs shall not be located on a site within 200 feet, as measured from the centerline of a roadway designated as a scenic highway, scenic parkway, scenic corridor or scenic route as designated by the State of California Department of Transportation. Freeway Facing Signs and Non-Freeway Facing Signs shall not be located on a site within 500 feet of the centerline of a scenic highway as designated in Mobility Plan 2035.

d. TCN Support Structures with a Digital Display(s) shall be at least 1,000 feet away from any other digital Off-Site Sign with a Digital Display on the same side of any portion of a Freeway for Freeway Facing Signs or on the same side of any portion of a roadway other than a Freeway for Non-Freeway Facing Signs, provided that such Off-Site Signs shall not include Digital Displays installed in or on bus and transit shelters pursuant to the Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP) established by the City or any successor program. The foregoing shall not be construed to prohibit Off-Site Signs with double-faced Digital Displays oriented toward opposing directions of the Freeway or roadway other than a Freeway. Compliance will be verified with measurements taken between the TCN Support Structures or other applicable Off-Site Signs with a Digital Display(s).

e. TCN Support Structures with a Digital Display(s) for Freeway Facing Signs located on the same side of a Freeway shall not be located within a minimum distance of 1,500 feet from another TCN Support Structure with a Digital Display(s) for Freeway Facing Signs.

H. Further Applicable Regulations.

1. **Materials.** All new Transportation Communication Network Support Structures and Digital Displays shall be in conformance with the Los Angeles Building Code and the Los Angeles Fire Code.

2. **Hazard Review.** Signs shall be subject to the Hazard Determination review procedures in Section 14.4.5 of Chapter 1 of the Code or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code, Section 4C.11.1.C.5 (Hazard to Traffic) of Article 4 (Development Standards) of Chapter 1A.

3. **Freeway Exposure.** Signs that adhere to the regulations in this Ordinance shall be exempt from the Freeway Exposure regulations in Code Section 14.4.6 of Chapter 1 of the Code or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code, Section 4C.11.1.C.6 (Freeway Exposure) of Article 4 (Development Standards) of Chapter 1A. All Signs shall continue to be subject to Caltrans approval, where applicable.

4. **Outdoor Advertising Act.** All Signs shall continue to be subject to the Outdoor Advertising Act, Cal. Business & Professions Code Section 5200, et seq., where applicable.

5. **Street Address.** All Non-Freeway Facing Signs must have a street address in accordance with Section 63.113 of the Code as a prerequisite to the placement of any Sign on the applicable property.

6. **New Technologies.** The Director may permit the use of any technology or material that did not exist prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, provided that such material is approved by LADBS, utilizing the Director's Interpretation procedures outlined in Section 11.5.7 H of Chapter 1 of the Code; or, in areas subject to Chapter 1A of the Code, Section 13B.4.6 of Article 13 (Administration) of Chapter 1A, if the Director finds that such technology or material is consistent with the regulations set forth in this Ordinance.

I. Illumination.

1. **General.** Digital Displays within the TCN District may be illuminated internally. Methods of signage illumination may include, but are not limited to: electric lamps, such as neon tubes; fiber optics; incandescent lamps; cathode ray tubes exposed directly to view; shielded spot lights and wall fixtures.

2. **Regulations.** Digital Displays shall meet the following criteria with respect to illumination:

a. All illuminated Digital Displays shall have a brightness or light intensity limitations of 0.3 foot candle above ambient lighting measured from the property line of the nearest residentially zoned parcel.

b. All illuminated Digital Displays shall be designed, located and or screened so as to minimize light travel onto the exterior walls and windows of residential and commercial buildings, including those on the same site as the Digital Display. If Digital Displays are to be externally lit, the source of the external illumination shall be shielded from public view at nearby residential uses.

c. All illuminated Digital Displays shall have a nighttime luminance no greater than 300 candelas per square meter and a daytime luminance no greater than 6000 candelas per square meter.

d. The brightness of any Digital Display that includes neon, neon-like or light emitting diodes (LED) elements shall be fully dimmable and controlled by an automatic light meter and timer which shall be maintained in good working order.

e. No Digital Display shall use highly reflective materials such as mirrored glass.

f. Digital Displays shall make a smooth transition at a consistent rate between the permitted daytime to nighttime brightness levels beginning no earlier than 45 minutes prior to sunset and concluding no later than 45 minutes after sunset.

g. All LEDs used within any illuminated Digital Display shall have a maximum horizontal beam spread of 165 degrees. The maximum or peak light output of any Digital Display shall be at or below horizontal.

h. Light reducing technology shall be incorporated into:

(i) All Digital Displays by utilizing state-of-the-art louvers with horizontal shading and;

(ii) Digital Displays operated within the Assessor Parcel Numbers listed below, shall utilize state-of-the-art louvers with horizontal and vertical shading LED louvers. These louvers shall to control the viewing angle of such Digital Displays by keeping light focused on its intended target without spillage onto such adjacent residential or other sensitive uses, such that the light trespass illuminance from any such Digital Display at the property line of any such residential or other sensitive use does not exceed 0.02 foot-candle.

Freeway Facing:

FF-5, APN: 2423-037-910, 2423-037-914,
2423-037-915, 2423-038-902,
2423-038-965;
FF-6, APN: 5415-002-801;
FF-7, APN: 544-500-7903;
FF-8, APN: 5410-009-905;
FF-9, APN: 5410-009-901;
FF-10, APN 5171-024-908;
FF-11, APN: 5170-010-901;
FF-21, APN: 2523-001-900, 2523-001-901;
FF-25, APN: 2251-002-905;
FF-26, APN: 4256-010-902;
FF-27, APN: 4260-039-906;
FF-28, APN: 4313-024-908;
FF-32, APN: 4138-001-902;
FF-33, APN: 5001-037-907; and
FF-34, APN: 5101-040-900.

Non-Freeway Facing:

NFF-4, APN: 2423-037-902, 2423-037-908;
NFF-5, APN: 2423-037-912, 2423-037-911,
2423-037-919;
NFF-6, APN: 5149-015-902;
NFF-11, APN: 4006-024-900;
NFF-19, APN: 5520-019-900, 5520-019-902; and
NFF-22, APN: 5147-035-904.

3. **Illumination Testing Protocol for Digital Displays.** Prior to the operation of any Digital Display, the applicant shall conduct testing to indicate compliance with the illumination regulation of this Ordinance, and provide a copy of the results, along with a certification from an LADBS approved testing agency, to the Director and to LADBS stating that the testing results demonstrate compliance with the Ordinance. The testing shall be at the applicant's expense.

J. **Refresh Rate.** All Digital Displays on Transportation Communication Network Support Structures shall be subject to the minimum required Controlled Refresh Rate as follows:

1. The Controlled Refresh Rate shall be no more frequent than one refresh every eight (8) seconds with an instant transition between the images. The Sign image must remain static between refreshes.

2. A minimum of an eight (8) second message within a sixty-four (64) second refresh cycle shall be utilized solely for non-commercial messages by LACMTA.

K. **Maintenance and Monitoring.** All Signs shall be maintained to meet the following criteria at all times:

1. All Transportation Communication Network Support Structures and Digital Displays shall be kept in good repair and free from graffiti. Furthermore, any building or ground area around these Signs shall be properly maintained, including, but not limited to, debris, rubbish, garbage, trash, overgrown vegetation or other similar material, pursuant to Section 91.8104. All unused mounting structures, hardware and perforations from any abandoned Sign shall be removed, and all surfaces shall be restored to their original condition.

2. Razor wire, barbed wire, concertina wire, or other barriers preventing unauthorized access to any Sign, if any, shall be hidden from public view.

3. No access platform, ladder, or other service appurtenance, visible from the sidewalk, street, or public right-of-way, shall be installed or attached to any Transportation Communication Network Support Structure.

4. Any Digital Display testing and measurements required by the Department of City Planning or the Department of Building and Safety shall be performed by a testing agency approved by the Department of Building and Safety, and shall be paid for and submitted by the operator of the Digital Display when requested by either Department.

L. **Public Art.** Notwithstanding any provisions in the Code to the contrary, all single-faced TCN Support Structures located on parcels listed below shall incorporate public art on the reverse side of said Digital Display.

Freeway Facing:

FF-01, APN: 5409023941;
FF-15, APN: 2324002901;
FF-27, APN: 4260039906;
FF-28, APN: 4313024908; and
FF-33, APN: 5001037907.

Non-Freeway Facing:

NFF-4, APN: 2423037902 and 2423037908;
NFF-5, APN: 2423037911 and 2423037912 and 2423037919;
NFF-6, APN: 5149015902;
NFF-10, APN: 2242001902 and 2242001904; and
NFF-11, APN: 4006024900.

1. The public art on the above-listed Freeway Facing Signs and Non-Freeway Facing Signs shall be administered by LACMTA, shall not include any off-site advertising and shall not be illuminated.

2. Photographs of each public art installation required above shall be submitted to the Planning Department as proof of compliance within twelve months from the permit issuance date for each TCN Support Structure listed above.

Sec. 7. **STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF SIGNS.**

A. **Digital Display - Freeway Facing Signs.**

1. **Sign Area.** The area of any single Digital Display of a Freeway Facing Sign shall not exceed 672 square feet, with the exception of one (1) Sign that may not exceed a maximum of 1,200 square feet as set forth in Table 7-1 below.

2. **Height.** Maximum heights for all proposed Freeway Facing Signs, inclusive of Digital Displays, shall be as set forth in Table 7-1 below. Transportation Communication Network Support Structures may include permanent architectural design features that shall be permitted to extend an additional five (5) feet in height above the maximum height limits set forth in Table 7-1 below.

3. **Hours of Operation.** Hours of operation for all Freeway Facing Signs shall be limited to no earlier than one (1) hour after LACMTA's first rail service and no later than one (1) hour before LACMTA's last rail service.

4. **Maximum Number of Signs.** A maximum total of 29 Transportation Communication Network Support Structures for Freeway Facing Signs shall be permitted. Freeway Facing Signs may be either single-faced or double-faced. A maximum total of 52 Digital Displays shall be permitted on the Freeway Facing Signs.

Table 7-1

Freeway Facing Signs

Sign ID	Assessor's Parcel Number (APN)	Maximum Square Feet of Individual Digital Displays & Maximum Number of Digital Displays	Maximum Sign Height (from adjacent grade)
FF-1	5409023941	1200 (1)	55
FF-2	5173019901	672 (2)	72
FF-3	5409021902	672 (2)	72
FF-5	2423037910 2423037914 2423037915 2423038902 2423038965	672 (2)	65
FF-6	5415002801	672 (2)	88
FF-7	5445007903	672 (2)	85
FF-8	5410009905	672 (2)	85
FF-9	5410009901	672 (2)	50
FF-10	5171024908	672 (2)	95
FF-11	5170010901	672 (2)	95
FF-12	5132029905	672 (2)	80
FF-15	2324002901	672 (1)	40
FF-16	2307021901	672 (1)	40
FF-17	2408038900 2408038901	672 (2)	85
FF-18	2632001900 2632001901	672 (2)	85
FF-19	2523001900 2523001901	672 (2)	80
FF-20	2523001900 2523001901	672 (2)	80
FF-21	5037030900 5037030902	672 (2)	80
FF-22	2603001900 2603001901	672 (2)	65
FF-23	5122024909	672 (2)	80
FF-24	2605001912 2605001916	672 (2)	100
FF-25	2251002905	672 (2)	80
FF-26	4256010902	672 (2)	95
FF-27	4260039906	672 (1)	95
FF-28	4313024908	672 (1)	80
FF-31	4129028901	672 (2)	95
FF-32	4138001902	672 (2)	95
FF-33	5001037907	672 (1)	80
FF-34	5101040900	672 (2)	80

B. Digital Display - Non-Freeway Facing Signs.

1. **Sign Area.** The area of any single Digital Display of a Non-Freeway Facing Sign shall not exceed 300 square feet, with the exception of four (4) Signs that may not exceed a maximum of 672 square feet as set forth in Table 7-2 below.

2. **Height.** Maximum heights for all proposed Non-Freeway Facing Signs, inclusive of Digital Displays, shall be as set forth in Table 7-2 below. Transportation Communication Network Support Structures may include permanent architectural design features that shall be permitted to extend an additional five (5) feet in height above the maximum height limits set forth in Table 7-2 below.

3. **Hours of Operation.** Hours of operation for all Non-Freeway Facing Signs shall be limited to 5 a.m. to 12 midnight daily.

4. **Maximum Number of Signs.** A maximum total of 12 Transportation Communication Network Support Structures for Non-Freeway Facing Signs shall be permitted. Non-Freeway Facing Sign structures may be either single-faced or double-faced. A maximum total of 19 Digital Displays shall be permitted on the Non-Freeway Facing Signs.

Table 7-2

Non-Freeway Facing Signs

Sign No.	Assessor Parcel Number (APN)	Maximum Square Foot Size of Digital Displays & Maximum Number of Digital Displays	Maximum Sign Height (from adjacent grade)
NFF-4	2423037902 2423037908	300 (1)	30
NFF-5	2423037912, 2423037911, 2423037919	300 (1)	30
NFF-6	5149015902	300 (1)	30
NFF-8	5173001901	672 (2)	60
NFF-9	2240008908	300 (2)	30
NFF-10	2242001902, 2242001904	300 (1)	30
NFF-11	4006024900	300 (1)	30
NFF-13	5409025905	300 (2)	30
NFF-17	4125026904	672 (2)	80
NFF-18	4125020907	672 (2)	30

Sign No.	Assessor Parcel Number (APN)	Maximum Square Foot Size of Digital Displays & Maximum Number of Digital Displays	Maximum Sign Height (from adjacent grade)
NFF-19	5520019900, 5520019902	300 (2)	30
NFF-22	5147035904	300 (2)	30

Sec. 8. **SIGN REDUCTION.**

Sign reduction shall be required prior to the issuance of building permits for Signs permitted by this Ordinance. An applicant shall seek an Administrative Clearance of a Sign reduction plan by filing an application with the Director pursuant to Section 12.32 S.4 of Chapter 1 of the Code or, when applicable, Section 13B.3.1 (Administrative Review) of Article 13 (Administration) of Chapter 1A of the Code, which shall occur prior to or concurrently with an application for approval of any new Sign permitted herein. The application shall demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

A. **Removal of Off-Site Signage.** The applicant shall be permitted to install the proposed Digital Displays and TCN Support Structures only if the applicant demonstrates the removal of existing, Off-Site Signs, including nonconforming Off-Site Signs, based upon the following Sign reduction requirements:

1. For Freeway Facing Signs, a total of two hundred (200) static Off-Site Sign Faces, inclusive of associated Sign structures, located within the legal boundaries of the City of Los Angeles, shall be removed in accordance with the provisions below:

i. A total of fifty (50) static Off-Site Sign Faces shall be removed anywhere within the City boundaries prior to the approval of the first new Freeway Facing Sign.

ii. After the first fifty (50) static Off-Site Sign Faces are removed, a minimum of four (4) static Off-Site Sign Faces shall be removed prior to the approval of a new Freeway Facing Sign, until the total two hundred (200) static Off-Site Sign Faces have been removed. The removal of the minimum of four (4) static Off-Site Sign Faces removed for each new Freeway Facing Sign shall occur within 2,640 feet of the Freeway Facing Sign for which that Off-Site Sign Face removal is to be credited. The 2,640-foot radius may be expanded to up to a 5,280-foot radius if LACMTA determines that the inventory of static Off-Site Sign Faces within the 2,640-foot radius will not result in the removal of the required number of static Off-Site Sign Faces; if LACMTA determines that

a 5,280-foot radius will not result in the removal of the required number of static Off-Site Sign Faces, then the balance of the minimum of four signs required to be removed that are not located within the 5,280-foot radius shall be within the boundaries of the Council District of the new Freeway Facing Sign; if LACMTA determines that the boundaries of the Council District of the new Freeway Facing Sign will not result in the removal of the required number of static Off-Site Sign Faces, then the removed signs shall be within the boundaries of the City of Los Angeles.

iii. The size of the static Off-Site Sign Faces to be removed, that are not located on LACMTA property, shall be no less than 300 square feet or a combination of smaller signs that total no less than 300 square feet.

2. For Non-Freeway Facing Signs

i. Each square foot of Sign Area of a new Non-Freeway Facing Sign shall be offset by a reduction of a minimum of 3 square feet of static Off-Site Sign Area within 2,640 feet of the proposed new Non-Freeway Facing Sign. The 2,640-foot radius may be expanded up to a 5,280-foot radius around the proposed new Non-Freeway Facing Sign if (a) LACMTA determines that the inventory of static Off-Site Sign Faces within the 2,640-foot radius is insufficient to effectuate the requirement in the preceding sentence and/or (b) LACMTA cannot secure agreements with the owners of Off-Site Sign Faces within the 2,640-foot radius for the removal of a sufficient amount of Sign Area to effectuate the requirement in the preceding sentence. This requirement shall apply to each individual proposed Non-Freeway Facing Sign and shall be completed prior to the issuance of a building permit for each proposed Non-Freeway Facing Sign.

B. Proof of Legal Status, Ownership, Removal Rights and Indemnification. Sign reduction credits shall not be awarded unless the applicant submits the following with the application form:

1. **Valid Building Permit.** A building permit demonstrating that the Off-Site Sign to be removed constitutes a legal use including the height, area, orientation and location of the Sign. This requirement shall not be applicable to the static Off-Site Sign Faces being removed from LACMTA property pursuant to Section 8.A.1.i.

2. **LACMTA Ownership.** Proof of LACMTA parcel ownership shall be required where an Off-Site Sign is being removed from a parcel owned by LACMTA pursuant to Section 8.A.1.i.

3. **Owner's Statement.** A written statement from the owner of the property from which the Off-Site Sign(s) will be removed or the owner of the Off-Site Sign(s) to be removed attesting that the owner has the legal right to permanently remove the Sign(s) and consents that the Sign reduction credits shall be applied to the designated new Digital Display on the same site or on a different specified parcel. The statement shall advise that once a Sign is removed for the purpose of obtaining a Sign credit, it may not be reinstalled. This written statement must be signed under penalty of perjury and notarized.

4. **Indemnification.** An executed agreement from the applicant promising to defend and indemnify the City against any and all legal challenges filed by a third party relating to the removal of the Sign(s).

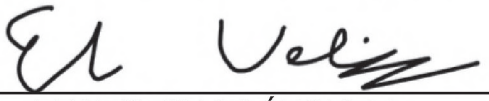
C. **Proof of Sign Removal.** The applicant shall submit a final demolition permit and photographic evidence to demonstrate that existing Off-Site Sign(s) have been removed pursuant to Section 8 prior to the issuance of a new building permit for a Sign authorized by this Ordinance.

Sec. 9. **SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of this Ordinance that can be implemented without the invalid provision. To this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

Sec. 10. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

Approved as to Form and Legality

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By 
ERNESTO VELÁZQUEZ
Deputy City Attorney

Date December 11, 2023

File No. 22-0392

Pursuant to Charter Section 559, I
disapprove this ordinance on behalf
of the City Planning Commission and
recommend that it **not** be adopted.


VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
Director of Planning

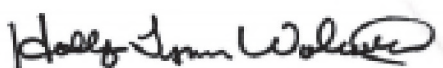
Date December 11, 2023

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The Clerk of the City of Los Angeles
hereby certifies that the foregoing
ordinance was passed by the Council
of the City of Los Angeles **by a vote of
not less than two-thirds** of all its
members.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR





Ordinance Passed December 15, 2023

Approved 12/26/2023

Ordinance posted: 12/27/2023
Ordinance effective date: 02/05/2024