



## urban movement labs

April 25, 2022

To: The Honorable Paul Krekorian  
Chair, Finance Committee  
Los Angeles City Council

From: Sam Morrissey, Executive Director, Urban Movement Labs

**Subject: 2022-23 Proposed Budget - Transportation and City Planning**  
([Council File 22-0600](#))

Dear Chairman Krekorian:

Urban Movement Labs is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to facilitate public-private partnerships for new transportation technologies, in a way that benefits all Angelenos. We applaud the passing of the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Motion ([Council File 21-0865](#)) on January 12<sup>th</sup> as a sign of the City's commitment to its residents and visitors in ensuring this new transportation technology is safe and equitable. Under the leadership of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) General Manager, Seleta Reynolds, we are proud to have funded a Fellow embedded within the department leading the work of the Urban Air Mobility (UAM) Partnership. As mentioned in the [Joint Report from Los Angeles Department of Transportation and Department of City Planning on Advanced Air Mobility](#), "...the UAM partnership funded an Urban Air Mobility Fellow who has been working with LADOT and Department of City Planning (DCP) to help inform City staff on the more technical aspects of integrating new aviation technology into the local transportation system."

**Consistent with the Council AAM Motion, 2022, Urban Movement Labs strongly urges the Council to continue support efforts by LADOT, DCP, and other departments as needed, for capacity building around the emerging topic of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM). This includes continued efforts of Urban Movement Labs' embedded UML Fellow, working under the direction of LADOT, as a part of the UAM Partnership and facilitating inter-departmental coordination on this new mobility technology that will potentially impact Los Angelenos across the city.** With multiple aircraft manufacturers working to bring new electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft to the market in or around 2024 and 2025, it is imperative that city departments have the capacity and resources needed to continue advancing transportation and land use policy, as well as associated day-to-day operations, related to assure a safe and equitable integration.

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Local land use policy shapes where new AAM infrastructure makes sense to serve the most people, while mitigating impacts. Land use policy is therefore, a city's most direct means of shaping aviation locally. Further, the safe operations of new aerial mobility modes at lower altitudes within the City, including during take offs and landing, will require new policies and tools across a multitude of departments. The industry envisions new infrastructure for take off and landing, called vertiports, to provide travelers with a new mode choice for safe and convenient travel in shortened times, not achievable through any existing ground mode today. It is critical that LADOT, DCP, and other departments engage in policy development, advanced land use planning, and other aspects of their respective operations to ensure necessary ground infrastructure integrates holistically within the City.

Further, as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) continues to develop guidance and regulations for AAM, there is a need for continued collaboration to inform new policies and regulatory frameworks to guide safe operations in airspace over urban areas, with a focus on safety and equity concerns. Rising to the challenge, LADOT has diligently led a very complex effort to blaze new trails for cities to become informed participants at the table among aviation decision makers. Departments like LADOT need to have resources and position authority to hire technical experts, as transportation technology continues to advance.

Like other emerging mobility technologies, AAM offers many benefits to communities, in regards to sustainability, mobility, equity, and economic opportunity, if planned and integrated as a complement to existing transportation and land use priorities. Urban Movement Labs is committed to continue supporting interdepartmental efforts through the continued efforts of the UAM Fellow embedded directly within LADOT and leading the work of the UAM Partnership. We thank you for your leadership.

Respectfully,



**Sam Morrissey, MBA, PE**  
**Executive Director**

CC: *Councilman Paul Koretz*  
*Councilman Mike Bonin*  
*Councilwoman Nury Martinez*  
*Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti*  
*Seleta Reynolds, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Transportation*  
*Vince Bertoni, Director of Planning, Los Angeles Department of City Planning*