

## **Communication from Public**

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**Council File No:** 23-0919  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached letter.



October 3, 2023

Subject: Support for Council File 23- 0919 – Capital Infrastructure Plan

Dear Councilmembers Hutt, Park, Hernandez, Raman, and Yaroslavsky,

As the Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles (ACT-LA), we envision public space as a sanctuary, where community members are entitled to safety, freedom, belonging, and care as they move within and across neighborhoods. ACT-LA members advocate as and alongside fellow transit riders who predominantly ride transit buses for high frequency and reliable bus service. A Capital Infrastructure Plan (CIP) that offers transparency and engages the community in public works planning is a necessary first step to ensure that this vision can be realized.

Los Angeles is the only major city without a CIP and it shows. Our sidewalks are broken, there are only 14 public restrooms within city limits, and our residents are sweltering as they wait for buses in a climate with unprecedented rising temperatures. Traffic violence is the leading cause of death for county residents 0-29 and despite the city's Vision Zero program and a large public works budget, pedestrian deaths are at an all-time high. Due to decades of automobile-centered transportation policy, these harmful impacts are deeply felt in communities of color and lower income communities, which are often along the city's Vision Zero High Injury Network. We cannot begin to address these problems without an inventory and plan for our public right-of-way, including streets, sidewalks, trees, and public spaces.

Our streets can only be as good as what we imagine and currently, no such vision for the City of Los Angeles exists. It is time for the City's approach to public space to shift from a culture of neglect to a culture of care.

We urge you to follow the recommendations of ACT-LA member organization Investing in Place, whose rigorous research has identified three crucial initial steps for launching a successful CIP in Los Angeles:

1. **Develop, articulate, and adopt a vision:** For the streets and sidewalks that incorporates all competing uses for this critical public space. Policymakers need to agree on outcomes the City wants to achieve in the public right-of-way over the next several years.

2. **Asset Inventory and Assessment:** Collect all department and bureaus asset management inventories, starting with the five Public Works Bureaus and Department of Transportation. The City needs to inventory assets to understand the scale and Conditions.

**3. Coordinate Planning Efforts:** Identify all of the existing, disconnected, and often conflicting efforts to plan for the public right-of-way from various city entities.

We look forward to working with you as we imagine safer and healthier streets in our city.

Sincerely,

Alfonso Directo Jr.  
Advocacy Director  
Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles