

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to an assessment of bus driver safety concerns, safeguards implemented, and recommendations to protect the City's contract bus drivers and the transit riding public.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. FIND that, pursuant to Los Angeles City Charter Section 371(e)(5), executing contracts to install protective driver barriers on Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) DASH buses to be of urgent necessity to preserve the lives and safety of bus drivers due to the recent increases in assault on DASH buses, and that obtaining competitive proposals or bids would not be reasonably practical and compatible with the City's interests.
2. AUTHORIZE the General Manager, LADOT, to enter into sole-source contracts with Power Manufacturing, AROW Global Corp., and Vapor Bus International, for the installation of protective barriers on all active DASH buses, subject to City Attorney approval as to form and legality.
3. AUTHORIZE the LADOT to transfer a total of \$3,669,000 within the Proposition A Fund No. 385, to fund the safety initiatives that LADOT has identified in response to Motion (Hutt – Park), attached to the Council file, as follows:
 - a. Transfer from Account No. 94AA40, Transit Facility State of Good Repair – \$2,250,442; and from Account No. 94A431, Transit Operations – \$1,418,558; to a new Account, “Bus Driver Safety Risk Mitigation.”
4. DIRECT the Los Angeles Police Department to report on a plan of security services that they are able to implement to support safe operation of LADOT DASH services and layovers.
5. AUTHORIZE the LADOT to make any technical corrections or clarifications, as necessary, to the above instructions.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The LADOT reports that there is no impact to the General Fund. The LADOT will front fund the estimated \$3,669,000 costs for capital, equipment, and IT by Proposition A Fund 385 in a new appropriation account: Bus Driver Safety Risk Mitigation. The LADOT will front fund any costs for contract security services by Proposition A Fund 385, appropriation account: Transit Bus Security Services. The LADOT will seek reimbursement for the capital, equipment, and IT services from existing grants in FTA Section 5307 funds that are set aside for transit safety and security. The LADOT will seek reimbursement for the contract security services by use of Metro's 5 percent of Proposition C formula funds that are set aside for transit security. Neither the City Administrative Office nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:
Studio City Neighborhood Council

(Public Safety Committee waived consideration of the above matter.)

Summary:

On October 2, 2024, your Transportation Committee considered a LADOT report, dated September 26, 2024, relative to an assessment of bus driver safety concerns, safeguards implemented, and recommendations to protect the City's contract bus drivers and the transit riding public. According to the Report, transit agencies across the country experienced declining ridership during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to the escalation of the quantity, type, and severity of violent assaults on transit operators over the last few years. This concerning trend has continued, despite increasing ridership and continues to put drivers and the riding public at risk. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the LADOT report, as amended. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Transportation Committee

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
HUTT:	YES
PARK:	YES
HERNANDEZ:	ABSENT
DE LEON:	ABSENT
RAMAN:	YES

RM
10/02/24

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-