


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: November 13, 2024

To: Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395
Attention: Honorable Heather Hutt, Chair, Transportation Committee

From: Laura Rubio-Cornejo, General Manager 
Department of Transportation

Subject: **BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE AND RESOLUTION**

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the progress of the bus lane enforcement program and requests City Council to adopt a resolution designating bus lanes on City streets associated with the bus lane enforcement program prior to the issuance of bus lane citations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council ADOPT the accompanying Resolution to designate bus lanes on City of Los Angeles streets associated with the bus lane enforcement program prior to the issuance of bus lane citations beginning on January 1, 2025.

BACKGROUND

In October 2024, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to initiate a camera bus lane enforcement program to improve the speed, reliability, and safety of transit buses in the City, and to increase bus ridership, equity and reduce vehicle miles traveled within the City, by keeping bus lanes and bus zones clear for the uninterrupted flow of transit service as intended by design. In October 2024, City Council instructed the LADOT to begin the bus lane enforcement pilot program warning period immediately after the City Council adopts the draft ordinance establishing the fine and penalties for a bus (transit) lane violation (CF 21-1224). At the same meeting, the City Council adopted the ordinance (#188388) with an effective date of December 1, 2024.

The bus lane enforcement program launched on November 1, 2024, with Metro buses' cameras identifying vehicles parked in bus lanes and at bus stops. LADOT started issuing vehicles confirmed to have been parked in bus lanes or bus stops warning notices via mail. This warning period is expected to end on December 31, 2024 to satisfy a minimum 60-day warning period.

DISCUSSION

The bus lane enforcement program launched Stage 1 with cameras installed on Metro buses assigned to Line 212 on La Brea Boulevard and Line 720 on Wilshire Boulevard. Stage 2, including Lines 910/950 on the Silver Line and Line 70 on Olive Street/Grand Avenue, is expected to launch in the coming months.

Beginning November 1, 2024, Metro's Bus Lane Enforcement (BLE) program will issue warning notices to drivers who park in a bus lane or stop at a bus stop for reasons other than making a right turn. During the first 60 days, both community outreach, engagement and warning notices will occur at the same time, and warning notices will not lead to any violations. These warning violation notices are intended to inform the public about the BLE program. After the initial 60-day period, drivers who violate bus lane rules will be fined for both zone and bus lane violations.

Prior to the end of the 60-day warning period, the City Council would need to designate the bus lanes that are proposed to be enforced through the bus lane enforcement program in order to issue parking citations in accordance with the new bus lane penalty fine schedule. Per Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 80.36.8, LADOT "is authorized, subject to approval by resolution of the City Council to designate the preferential use of traffic lanes in streets and highways under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation within the City of Los Angeles and to place and maintain, or cause to be placed and maintained, such appropriate signs, signals, barriers, stanchions or other traffic control devices as may be authorized under the State Vehicle Code or as may be necessary properly to indicate and to carry out the provisions of this section or to warn or guide traffic."

The attached draft resolution identifies 12 City street segments that have existing bus lanes that are proposed to be enforced beginning January 1, 2025 as part of Stage 1 and 2 of the bus lane enforcement program. Without the formal adoption of this resolution, LADOT will not be able to issue citations after the 60-day warning period.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LADOT anticipates collecting \$5,472,596 annually in net revenue as part of the bus lane enforcement program. Final terms between Metro and LADOT on the potential reinvestment of net revenues from the bus lane enforcement program will be brought back to the Mayor and Council for approval once discussions have been completed.

LRC:kh

Attachment