

Communication from Public

Name: David Fenn

Date Submitted: 01/17/2023 08:45 AM

Council File No: 21-1224

Comments for Public Posting: I write today to express my strong support for automated bus lane enforcement in Los Angeles. As a Downtown resident and regular transit rider, I have experienced more than my share of the impacts and benefits of new bus only lanes. Bus only lanes are key to making the backbone of our transit system faster and more reliable which in turn makes transit more attractive to more angelenos thereby reducing driving and traffic. Achieving this is key to our climate and air quality goals. Moreover, speeding up buses should be considered an equity imperative since bus riders are typically among the lowest income angelenos. Despite all the rail construction underway, buses will remain the backbone of the system because of the scale of our region and the need for coverage beyond primary corridors and improved bus service will only expand the reach of those larger capital investments at a fraction of the cost. However, simple paint and signs are not enough. Existing bus lanes are often ignored by drivers due to a lack of enforcement and police resources are rightly focused on more serious and dangerous crimes. Moreover, due to the reality of racism and bias among even well meaning police officers, automated bus lane enforcement through cameras mounted in buses stands to free up police resources for more serious crimes to which they are better suited to address while also removing some of the potential for bias in the enforcement of this particular crime. However, enforcement alone is not enough. New bus only lanes should be upgraded to 24 hour facilities (rather than peak hour only) and high visibility red paint (as is a common best practice in other Cities) and every major arterial roadway in the City with bus service should receive a bus only lane.