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October 28, 2022

Metro Board of Directors
One Gateway Plaza
Mail Stop 22-9
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Shine Ling, Development Review Team

Dear Honorable Board Directors:

REGARDING METRO'S TRANSPORTATION COMMUNICATION NETWORK

I have extreme concerns about the proposed Transportation Communication Network (TCN) Program. The last thing the City of Los Angeles needs is additional digital signs. All advertising signs distract drivers, create visual blight, and lead to injuries and fatalities. There are three proposed TCN Structures (NFF-07, FF-26, FF-28) in Council District Five. While I do believe that Metro should scrap the entire program, I echo the calls of my constituents when I say that, at a minimum, Metro should remove all three proposed TCN Structures from my district.

While the City has allowed digital signage in some instances in exchange for clear and tangible public benefits or streetscape improvements, the proposed TCN program includes no discernible public benefits and I assert will instead degrade the public realm. The City of Los Angeles is not for sale, and extreme exceptions to the City's current sign restrictions should not be granted to allow these advertising displays.

Instead of pursuing this dead-on-arrival proposal, Metro should explore alternatives to meet its project objectives. Such alternatives could include providing Metro's Regional Integration of Intelligent Transportation Systems (RIITS) information to boost roadway efficiency, in addition to other project components, on more traditional signs which do not sell advertising space. Additionally, alternatives should better explore increased buffering from residential uses, reduced brightness, and other mitigation measures as it appears that the proposed locations will have direct impacts on adjacent residential units and other potentially sensitive users.

While the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) brings to light certain impacts of the project on the environment, the simple fact is that the negative impacts of this project go far and well beyond the scope of an EIR and California Environmental Quality Act review. The EIR lays out the potential for significant and unavoidable impacts related to Aesthetics, Cultural Resources, and Land Use and Planning. Additionally, the EIR relies on unproven mitigation measures to potentially address significant impacts related to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, and Tribal Cultural Resources. There is no way that the undefined potential benefits of this program would possibly outweigh the clear and obvious negative environmental and societal impacts associated with increased digital advertising and increased traffic dangers. I urge you to halt this program as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Koretz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, Fifth District