

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: October 17, 2019

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

From: Seleta J. Reynolds, General Manager
Department of Transportation

Subject: NextGen Bus Study / Operational and Infrastructure Improvements / Reliable Service

SUMMARY

In response to direction in Council File (CF) 19-0885, this report provides an update on the NextGen Bus Speed Engineering Working Group, a joint effort between the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). The working group will coordinate to identify priority bus-supportive infrastructure projects needed to support their NextGen bus service plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council RECEIVE and FILE this report.

BACKGROUND

On September 17, 2019, Council directed LADOT to convene a monthly NextGen Bus Speed Engineering Working Group with Metro and provide quarterly updates to the Transportation Committee, starting in October 2019. The working group is responsible for developing a list of priority bus-supportive infrastructure projects to support Metro's NextGen bus service plan, with an emphasis on near-term improvements that can be implemented concurrently with each phase of NextGen.

DISCUSSION

LADOT and Metro are coordinating on this initiative, and Metro provided the attached report summarizing progress to date. Since the date of their report, the working group held its first meeting on October 9, 2019 to kick off the effort. LADOT will be working cooperatively to identify the feasibility and timeline of near-term improvements to support each phase of the NextGen rollout. LADOT will continue to update the Transportation Committee quarterly on the progress of the working groups.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this action.

SJR:DM

Attachment



Board Report

File #: 2019-0654, **File Type:** Informational Report

Agenda Number: 26.

**OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 17, 2019**

SUBJECT: MOTION 22.1: NEXTGEN BUS SPEED ENGINEERING WORKING GROUP STATUS UPDATE

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE AND FILE the status report in response to Motion 22.1 entitled NextGen Bus Speed Engineering Working Group (July 2019). This update provides details regarding a technical working group appointed by Metro and its efforts to coordinate with a complementary group from LADOT to develop a work program to improve bus priority and assess the need to coordinate with other jurisdictions and municipal operators.

ISSUE

In July 2019, the Board approved Motion 22.1 entitled NextGen Bus Speed Engineering Working Group as part of the NextGen Service Concept. This motion requests the following:

- A. Develop a list of priority bus-supportive infrastructure projects needed to support the NextGen bus service plan, with an emphasis on near-term improvements that can be implemented concurrently with each phase of NextGen;
- B. Form a NextGen Bus Speed Engineering Working Group co-chaired by the Metro CEO and the General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, or their designees, and establish a regular meeting schedule, at least monthly;
- C. Assess the need for coordination with additional local jurisdictions and municipal operators where bus delay hotspots exist; and
- D. Report back to the Operations, Safety, and Customer Experience Committee on the above in October 2019, and quarterly thereafter.

This report provides a status update on the response to Motion 22.1.

BACKGROUND

In July 2018, the Board adopted Motion 38.1, endorsing travel speed, service frequency, and system reliability as the highest priority service design objectives for the NextGen Bus Study. These objectives have been incorporated into the Regional Service Concept, that was approved by the Board in July 2019, which provides the framework for restructuring Metro's bus routes and schedules, and includes:

1. Goals and objectives of the new bus network;
2. Measures of success;
3. Route and network design concepts based on public input and data analysis; and
4. Framework for balancing tradeoffs that consider Metro's Equity Platform.

Concurrent to the approval of the Regional Service Concept, the Board approved Motion 22.1: Engineering Working Group, which provides direction to staff to establish a partnership between Metro and LADOT to identify, design, fund and implement transit supportive infrastructure to speed up transit service as part of the NextGen bus restructuring effort.

DISCUSSION

The Metro CEO has appointed a Technical Working Group focused on identifying, planning, designing and implementing bus speed and reliability improvements. This group, consisting of Metro Service Planning will work in close partnership with LADOT's equivalent technical team, consisting of Traffic Operations, Active Transportation, and Transportation Planning Groups, meeting on a regular basis (every 2-4 weeks), to ensure continued coordination and advancement of the program. Additional Metro departments (e.g. Communication, Planning, OMB, OEI, Program Management, Security), as well as other municipal traffic departments and transit operators, would be engaged as needed when specific projects have been defined and advanced towards design and implementation.

At major milestones and as needed, the Technical Working Group will report on progress to the Metro CEO and LADOT's GM, and/or their designees, to seek direction on goals and objectives of the Technical Working Group as well as policy guidance on balancing priorities for roadway and curb space.

Some early action projects for the working group include:

Downtown Los Angeles Area

- Evaluate the benefits of the Flower Street pop-up bus only lane on speed and reliability, and consider maintaining the lane after the completion of New Blue;
- Evaluate transit priorities for critical north/south and east/west transit corridors, including bus-only lanes, queue jumpers, and strategic bus stop relocation.

Congested Corridor Program

- Evaluate transit priority programs for other critical NextGen corridors based on criteria such as severity of delay, number of trips per hour, and ridership. Each corridor program should

consist of recommendations for bus stop relocation, bus lanes, queue jumpers, enhanced transit signal priority, traffic signal timing improvements, and curb extensions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Recommendation supports strategic plan goal #1: Provide high quality mobility options that enable people to spend less time traveling. Improving the speed and reliability of the bus network will reduce transit travel times as well as improving competitiveness with other transportation options.

NEXT STEPS

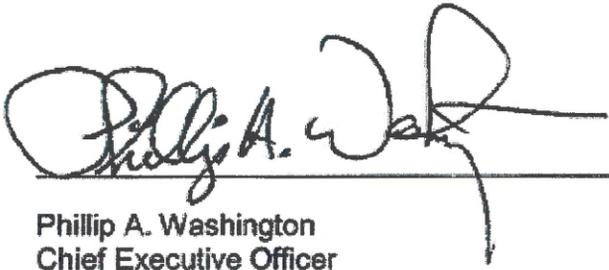
Metro and LADOT will continue to collaborate on implementing transit supportive infrastructure and provide quarterly progress reports to the Board.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Motion 22.1 Speed Engineering Working Group

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