

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

Seleta J. Reynolds  
GENERAL MANAGER



ERIC GARCETTI  
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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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April 21, 2021

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair  
Budget and Finance Committee  
Attention: Mandy Morales, Office of the City Clerk  
200 North Spring Street, Room 395, City Hall  
Los Angeles, California 90012

### **RE: LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2021-22**

Dear Honorable Chair Krekorian:

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) appreciates the opportunity to provide you with our comments on the Mayor's FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget. After a challenging year, LADOT is hopeful that the FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget includes many opportunities for restored City services and the beginning of a historic recovery process.

I am very proud that LADOT continues to serve the needs of Angelenos in significant and unprecedented ways to contribute to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Through these efforts, LADOT prepares and staffs COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites, staffs the Great Plates Senior Meals and Project Roomkey programs, implements the Slow Streets Program to create safer outdoor space and eliminate overcrowding on sidewalks, and leads the AI Fresco Program that allows more than 2,000 local, small businesses to stay open during these challenging times. LADOT provided these services while we delivered historic levels of service and project delivery, including more than 100 miles of new and upgraded bike lanes, over 81,000 hours of traffic control, and more than 10 million dockless vehicle trips Citywide enabled through our on-demand mobility program. While equity is at the cornerstone of many of our legacy and pandemic response programs, we worked diligently this past year to prioritize this work and build a more just and resilient Department. These included launching a cross-functional Racial Equity Core Team made up of staff from every business line in our Department to create a more inclusive workplace, creating new data driven ways to ensure equitable service delivery in our mobility programs, and launching a community-first model for our public engagement efforts that focuses on gaining feedback from marginalized communities. LADOT also responded to the resulting financial crisis by limiting overtime to only emergency operations, participating in contract cost containment, prioritizing hiring requests to only the most critical, and weathering the many interim reductions to our operating budget and special fund appropriations.

The FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget is hopeful and exciting. Many of our special fund appropriations are restored back to basic levels. The increase in capital funding signals a recovering economy. The following are some major items for my Department included in this Proposed Budget:

- A total increase of 11.71% to LADOT's Departmental budget
- Curb Management System - \$1.6M for the development of a curb asset management system and integration with other systems that detect use and activities performed at curb zones
- Al Fresco Program - \$1.92M to create grant opportunities for restaurants in low-income neighborhoods to set up permanent parklets for outdoor dining to increase business and improve the dining experience
- Crossing Guard Program - \$3.15M to keep the Crossing Guard Program whole as Traffic Safety Fund revenue drops
- Vision Zero - a Citywide total of \$65.6M, an increase over the current year's Adopted Budget of \$46.8M
- Vision Zero Priority Corridor Projects - \$18.2M, an increase over the current year's Adopted Budget of \$11.8M
- Restoration of \$30M in MICLA for Citywide Traffic Signal construction
- Universal Basic Mobility Projects - \$4M for projects that prioritize access to transportation in underserved communities, including safety projects, microtransit, EV infrastructure and programs, bicycle and pedestrian projects, and other public right-of-way improvements
- People Streets and Play Streets Projects - \$1M for creating safe spaces for pedestrian uses
- Pedestrian Lights and Safety Projects - \$5M for flashing beacons, crosswalks, speed feedback signs, and other similar projects
- Curb Ramp Construction Associated with Signals - \$8M for unfunded curb ramps projects associated with signal construction
- Speed Humps - a total of \$3M, an increase over the current year's Adopted Budget of \$1.9M

#### Separation Incentive Program Impacts

In an effort to address the financial crisis, 130 of LADOT's most senior employees participated in the Separation Incentive Program (SIP). These vacancies, together with attrition and prior vacancies, put the Department at close to a 30% vacancy rate. This is unsustainable and insufficient to support continued service provision at the levels we provided during the pandemic.

This number includes 65 in Parking Enforcement and Traffic Control, 31 in Field Operations, 26 in professional planning and engineering, and 8 throughout the Department. LADOT is grateful that the Mayor recognizes the critical contributions by the Parking Enforcement and Traffic Control Division, as the SIP positions related to this function are largely restored. However, the 2021-22 Proposed Budget includes a reduction of 79 positions, including 66 regular positions and 13 resolution authority positions, as well as \$383,000 in reduced expenses resulting from the implementation of SIP. With large increases to the City's transportation infrastructure programs, let alone our regular delivery of over 50 business lines, it is critical for the Department to have sufficient resources to execute this budget, recover from the pandemic, and continue to meet you and your constituents' expectations.

LADOT prioritizes our work through mobility, safety, and equity goals set by Council and the Mayor, laid out clearly in our Strategic Plan. We will lead the City's recovery process by growing safe mobility options and ensuring that transportation infrastructure meets the needs of our most vulnerable communities. I look forward to further discussions regarding how LADOT will be your successful partner in these endeavors. As always, we are available to respond to any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seleta Reynolds", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Seleta J. Reynolds  
General Manager

c: Matt Szabo, Office of the Mayor  
Raoul Mendoza, Office of the Mayor  
Barbara Romero, Office of the Mayor  
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst  
Richard H. Llewellyn, City Administrative Officer