

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Meaney
Date Submitted: 09/14/2021 08:36 AM
Council File No: 20-1536
Comments for Public Posting: Investing in Place, along with 11 organizations and 22 individuals, are writing to you to express our concern regarding the importance of transparency in relation to bus shelter financing. Attached is our letter, if you have any questions feel free to email Aziz (aziz@investinginplace.org) and Jessica (jessica@investinginplace.org).



September 9, 2021

TO: Los Angeles Board of Public Works

- Greg Good, Board President
- Aura Garcia, Vice President
- Mike Davis, President Pro Tempore
- Jessica M. Caloza
- M. Teresa Villegas

RE: **Council File 20-1536** Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP)

Dear Board of Public Works,

We are writing to express our concern regarding the importance of transparency in relation to bus shelter financing. With the STAP program deciding on who to enter into a contract with, there are still many questions to be answered regarding how funding will significantly affect improving the bus rider experience in Los Angeles. We request that the funding estimates for the bus shelter program be made available before the contract is

presented at the Board of Public Works and Los Angeles City Council. We are fully supportive of StreetsLA's staff recommendation of covering 100% costs of the programs foreseen capital expenditures (CAPEX). However, we do not know where this money will be coming from, the cost of the program, whether Metro is contributing to the effort, and how many shelters will be installed in Year 1. In addition, would there be funding made available for making bus stops around the shelters ADA accessible, and how would the program work with streetscape improvements such as broken sidewalks, widening sidewalks, and tree planting. Additionally, how are bus stop investments tied into bus lanes and other transit operational improvements? Will bus stop improvements include better wayfinding and other customer experience improvements that support first-last mile connectivity? Investments should support ridership growth and broader infrastructure improvements that enhance service, such as Metro's NextGen Bus Plan.

The public deserves to know the thoughts and plans of the City, and how this program will connect with a holistic and healthy urban design vision for our public realm, before the contract is proposed for a vote of approval from City Council. We believe the lack of an integrated approach is a systemic issue that goes beyond this project, but as the largest city in the US without a capital infrastructure plan, we do not have a clear picture of where public works and transportation funds have gone over the years and are not able to see a publicly accessible future funding plan or implementation goals and timelines. However, in the short-term, we request that the funding estimates for the bus shelter program be made available prior to the contract being introduced to the Board of Public Works and Los Angeles City Council.

Sincerely,

Organizations:

Communities Actively Living Independent & Free, Cynde Soto

Community Arts Resources, Aaron Paley

FASTLinkDTLA, Hilary Norton

Investing in Place, Jessica Meaney

LA Forward Action, Marcel Flores

LA River Communities for Environmental Equity, Christine Louise Mills

Long Beach Environmental Alliance, John Kindred

Los Angeles Walks, John Yi

Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition. Tom Grode

Streets for All, Michael Schneider

The River Project, Melanie Winter

The Transit Coalition, Bart Reed

Individuals:

Alexis Lantz

Andrew Bleich

Deborah Murphy

Diane Velez

Griffin Rowell

Jacob Wasserman

Jamie York

John Perry

Joseph Clark

Jen Wang

Kris Miranda

Leslie Graham

Lorenzo Mutia

Lynne Tien

Marissa Ayala

Paul Zheng

Ray Dang

Rebecca Pynoos

Till Stegers

Virginia Wexman

Vito Grillo

Will Wright

CC: Los Angeles City Council

- Nury Martinez, President
- Joe Buscaino, President Pro Tempore
- Gil Cedillo
- Paul Krekorian
- Bob Blumenfield
- Nithya Raman
- Paul Koretz
- Monica Rodriguez
- Marqueece Harris-Dawson
- Curren D. Price, Jr.
- Mark Ridley-Thomas
- Mike Bonin
- John Lee
- Mitch O'Farrell
- Kevin de León