

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

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April 21, 2022

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee
Attention: Andrew Suh, 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 2022-23

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 2022-23 Proposed Budget.

The past year has provided us with a number of challenges, as we continue to recover from the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department has remained focused, however, on restoring critical services, and finding new ways to meet the changing transportation needs of the communities we serve. LADOT continues to contribute to the City's COVID-19 pandemic response through ongoing support for lifeline programs that provide direct benefits to local residents and businesses. The Department continued to make street safety a top priority last year, installing more than 800 safety treatments on our High Injury Network including more than 50 new traffic signals, 1,400 crosswalks and 500 leading pedestrian intervals. The department also continued to make technology a focus, as Los Angeles remains ground zero for the rapid evolution of transportation. Through the use of our Mobility Data Specification the department supported more than 8 million dockless vehicle trips, our Electric Vehicle car share program supported nearly 28,000 trips citywide and 800,000 miles of travel, and we released the City's first Advanced Aerial Mobility framework, helping to establish policy priorities for this emerging mode.

Equity also remained at the cornerstone of our legacy and pandemic response programs and we advanced new efforts to ensure all communities receive equal access to transportation services. The Department issued its "*Changing Lanes*" Gender Equity report to better understand how we can make travel safer and more efficient for women in the City. The Department also advanced Racial Equity, internally through our staff led Core Team which kicked off its second year and established goals to increase racial parity in underrepresented civil service classifications through targeted retention and recruitment efforts. We are preparing to launch the largest mobility wallet program in the country, to provide 2,500 Angelenos with

free access to transit, EV car sharing, bike sharing, and other transportation services to ensure that a lack of transportation access does not mean a lack of economic access for those most in need.

LADOT hopes that the FY 2022-23 Budget will allow us to continue building on these efforts while providing new opportunities to support transportation infrastructure throughout the City. The following are some major items for the Department included in this Proposed Budget:

- \$202.4 million operating budget for FY 2022-23 (total decrease of 1.2% compared to FY 2021-22)
- Vision Zero - a Citywide total of \$35.8 million
- Vision Zero Priority Corridor Projects - \$19.5 million, an increase over the current year's Adopted Budget of \$18.2 million
- Crossing Guard Program - \$1.8 million to allow for 104 additional crossing guards and crossing guard supervision (BB #64)
- Gender Equity in Transportation - \$200,000 in contractual services to develop a methodology to prioritize programs, projects, and resources that enhance the ways women, girls, and gender minorities travel and corresponding equity metrics
- Speed Humps - \$1.9 million (a decrease from the current year's Adopted Budget of \$3 million)
- Capital Grant Project Delivery and Support - \$467,977 for six new positions to manage and inspect grant-funded capital projects
- Expansion of Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Annual Work Program - \$385,147 for five new positions to support the Transit Speed Improvement Project as part of the Metro Annual Work Program
- Additional Staff Support for Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Projects - \$688,958 for eight new positions to support the design and construction of LADWP infrastructure improvement projects

Staffing Levels and Service Impacts

To address the financial crisis, 130 of LADOT's most senior employees participated in the Separation Incentive Program (SIP) in 2021-22. The 2021-22 Proposed Budget included the deletion of 42 positions from the Department's Budget. The vacancies created by the SIP, together with attrition and prior vacancies, created tremendous strain on the department's staffing and put the Department in an unsustainable position to support continued service provision at pre-pandemic levels. The Department currently has a vacancy rate of 21%.

For 2022-23, the Department respectfully requests the restoration and continuation of 33 positions that were deleted as part of the Separation Incentive Program. These critical positions impact some of our most critical neighborhood programs including 22 positions in our traffic signals and traffic marking division, 4 engineering positions to support our District Offices, and 7 positions in our parking operations and adjudication offices, including support for the homeless services Community Assistance Parking Program. The restoration of these positions would help avoid further delays or interruptions to critical neighborhood services.

The Department also requests the Committee's consideration and support for our continued work to improve and innovate mobility options for Angelenos through technology. Los Angeles innovates, and we have become a nationwide leader in transportation technology. By investing in the expansion of first in-class digital tools like the Mobility Data Specification, our "Code the Curb" efforts to digitize our curb asset management system, and resources to both manage and advance the development of policies and regulations for emerging modes like Advanced Aerial Mobility, drones and personal delivery devices, we can ensure that we support innovation while we also protect critical safety, access, equity and sustainability to help manage the growing number of digitally operated transportation services. As we look to the future to ensure we are providing Angelenos with the transportation services they deserve, we also need to address the areas where we've fallen short. By investing in efforts like Universal Basic Mobility, Gender and Racial equity, the Department is advancing new programs and services that create direct benefits for underinvested communities and more opportunities for Angelenos.

It is critical for the Department to have sufficient resources to execute this budget in order to deliver high-quality services to constituents for over 50 business lines as we prepare for a full reopening of the City post-pandemic, and to be ready as Federal and State infrastructure funding opportunities become available.

LADOT prioritizes our work through mobility, safety, sustainability, and equity goals set by Council and the Mayor, laid out in detail in our Strategic Plan. We will continue to grow safe mobility options, develop and facilitate transportation options for a sustainable future, and ensure that transportation delivery and 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,



Seleta J. Reynolds
General Manager

c: Jeanne Holm, Office of the Mayor
Raoul Mendoza, Office of the Mayor
Mary Hodge, Office of the Mayor
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer