

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to a bus driver shortage in connection with City public transportation services.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Krekorian – Hutt):

DIRECT the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), in coordination with the City Administrative Officer (CAO), to report on the bus driver shortage and its effect on the City's contract transit services, to include:

- a. The number of bus operator vacancies per contract.
- b. Any ongoing reduction in service that the public is experiencing.
- c. The estimated cost of any recommended contract driver wage increases.
- d. The fiscal impact on Council-approved initiatives, as well as other efforts the LADOT is taking to address the national bus driver shortage situation.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On January 25, 2023, your Committee considered a Motion (Krekorian - Hutt) relative to a bus driver shortage in connection with City public transportation services. According to the Motion, the LADOT contracts the operation of the City's DASH, Commuter Express, Cityride, and LAnow transit services through five separate contracts:

- North Region DASH/Commuter Express (Contract No. C-140191)
- South Region DASH/Commuter Express (Contract No. C-140192)
- Cityride (Contract No. C-140036) with MV Transportation, Inc.
- Downtown DASH (Contract No. C-134341)
- Mid-City DASH/LAnow (Contract No. C-134340) with MV Public Transportation, Inc. (a wholly-owned subsidiary of MV Transportation, Inc.).

Since 2020, changes in labor markets have impacted transit agencies' and operators' hiring and retention rates nationwide. An industry survey conducted in October 2022, found that 96 percent of 190 transit agencies across the nation reported a workforce shortage overall. Many agencies have boosted pay, offered bonuses, streamlined hiring

practices, initiated additional driver safety measures, and improved driver schedules to address the situation. The City's existing transit service contracts were approved in 2019, 2020, and 2021 and included wage rates that do not reflect the current economic conditions. Without enough drivers, LADOT will delay implementation of several initiatives funded and approved by City Council under the Transit Service Analysis in 2018 (Council File No. 18-0244), including updating route alignments citywide, launching new DASH routes, and increasing the frequency of operating Community DASH routes. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to approve the Motion. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Transportation Committee



COUNCILMEMBER VOTE

HUTT:	YES
PARK:	YES
HERNANDEZ:	YES
RAMAN:	YES
YAROSLAVSKY:	YES

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1/23/23

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-