



March 13, 2018

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Chair, Board of Directors
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012
sent via: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Re: EnviroMetro Equity Survey Results -- Identifies Priority For Bus Network Investments

Dear Chair Garcetti, Metro Board Directors and staff:

The undersigned organizations commend your commitment to developing an equity framework that will shape how Metro's future transportation investments address disparities in access to opportunity. Your progressive leadership on this issue has our enthusiastic support, and we are proud to partner with you on this endeavor through our participation in the Metro Policy Advisory Council (PAC) and other engagement opportunities as they arise.

In anticipation of this momentous opportunity and in an effort to inform the equity framework development process with the perspectives of lower-income, transit-dependent populations, the EnviroMetro coalition conducted a short survey targeted at those Angelenos who are often unreached in engagement efforts. In it, we invited them to share their priorities for future transportation investments, and overwhelmingly, their value of the bus network shone through.

Survey Results

When asked open-endedly what their top transportation investment priority was, a majority of respondents' answers (56%) fit into the category of 'More frequent, more reliable, and improved bus services'. Then, when asked to identify gaps in bus infrastructure that they would like addressed, respondents named: limited shade structures at stops (72.7%), places to sit down at stops (72.7%), greenery at stops (63.6%), and safe routes to stops (62.7%).

Data collection took place in the fall of 2017, both online and in person, in English and Spanish, throughout LA County. A total of 323 responses, gives us a margin of error plus or minus 5.45 percent with a 95 percent level of confidence as being representative of LA County's population of 10.17 million. A report on the survey's full results and methodology is available here: <http://bit.ly/EquitySurveyReport>.

Recommendations

To address the survey findings, the EnviroMetro coalition suggests a series of recommendations for investments in the existing bus network, including:

- More frequent, affordable, and reliable bus service
- Dedicated bus-only lanes, or bus rapid transit
- Safer routes for biking and walking to bus stops
- Bus shelters that provide adequate shading

Additionally, we recommend that future engagement efforts adopt an equity-based approach by collecting responses in multiple languages and making the subject accessible to participants with varying degrees of technical proficiency. We think that an inclusive, community-informed approach to making investment decisions at Metro is possible, and are committed partners to working with Metro staff to realize that possibility.

If you have any questions and/or would like to arrange for further collaboration, a good point of contact for our coalition is our PAC representative, Bryn Lindblad, who can be reached at blindblad@climateresolve.org / (213) 634-3790 x102.

We hope you will consider these survey findings throughout the development of the equity framework and the corresponding update of Metro's LRTP, and consider conducting more robust, equity-focused research on Angelenos' transportation priorities throughout those processes and beyond.

Sincerely,

The EnviroMetro core team:

Fernando Cazares, Senior Program Manager -- Climate Smart Cities, The Trust for Public Land
Belinda Faustinos & Omar Gomez, Executive Director & Program Manager, Nature for All
Jonathan Parfrey & Bryn Lindblad, Executive Director & Associate Director, Climate Resolve
Wesley Reutimann, Executive Director, Bike San Gabriel Valley
Claire Robinson, Managing Director, Amigos de los Rios
Daniel Rossmann, CA Deputy Director, The Wilderness Society

Enclosure: EnviroMetro Equity Survey Infographic

Cc:

Metro Board Directors:

Sheila Kuehl, Vice Chair & LA County Supervisor, Third District, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov
James Butts, Second Vice Chair & Mayor, City of Inglewood, mayor@cityofinglewood.org

Kathryn Barger, LA County Supervisor, Fifth District, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov
Mike Bonin, Council Member, City of Los Angeles, mike.bonin@lacity.org
Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, City of Los Angeles Appointee, jacksonm@metro.net
John Fasana, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Duarte, fasanaj@accessduarte.com
Robert Garcia, Mayor, City of Long Beach, mayor@longbeach.gov
Janice Hahn, LA County Supervisor, Fourth District, hahn@bos.lacounty.gov
Paul Krekorian, Council Member, City of Los Angeles, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org
Ara Najarian, Council Member, City of Glendale, anajarian@glendaleca.gov
Mark Ridley-Thomas, LA County Supervisor, Second District,
markridley-thomas@bos.lacounty.gov
Hilda L. Solis, LA County Supervisor, First District, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
Carrie Bowen, Caltrans District 7 Director, carrie.bowen@dot.ca.gov

Metro Planning Staff:

Therese McMillan, Chief Planning Officer, McMillanT@metro.net
Manjeet Ranu, Senior Executive Officer, Long Range Transportation Plan and Mobility
Corridors, RanuM@metro.net
Kalieh Honish, Executive Officer, Long Range Transportation Planning, HonishK@metro.net
Mark Yamarone, Deputy Executive Officer, Long Range Planning, YamaroneM@metro.net

EnviroMetro Equity Survey

Where should Metro invest?

Our survey identified a robust need for investments in the bus network

Metro will be developing an equity framework in 2018. To inform that discussion, last year EnviroMetro surveyed Angelenos to tell us what they cared about when it comes to public transportation.

FINDINGS

Through open-ended questions, Angelenos were asked where they want to prioritize Metro investments. They said:

Frequent, reliable, and improved bus services from LA Metro

56%

Improved rail service

17.8%

Reduced fares

15.1%

Participants were asked about gaps in bus infrastructure, and identified a need for:



323
ANGELENOS
SURVEYED INCLUDED



Responses in Spanish



Respondents who own a car



Respondents use public transit 4+ times per week

"Metro needs to prioritize urban greening, tree canopy, and bus shelters to protect current and future riders from heat (and rain)."

Fernando Cazares, Senior Program Manager—Climate Smart Cities, Los Angeles.

"Safe, comfortable, and cool routes to walk and bike to public transit stops remain few and far between in LA County."

Wesley Reutimann, Executive Director, Bike San Gabriel Valley

RECOMMENDATIONS

Angelenos surveyed stressed the need for investments in the existing bus network through:

More frequent, affordable, and reliable service

Dedicated bus-only lanes, or bus rapid transit

Cleaner busses and bus stops

Infrastructure at bus stops that provides adequate shading, shelter, etc.

OPPORTUNITIES

New funding sources such as Measures M and R, Propositions A and C, as well as state and federal dollars can help fund these recommendations.

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update is a key opportunity for Metro to reorganize funds from these sources, and outline how Metro will spend our future transportation dollars.

NEXT STEPS

We at the EnviroMetro coalition encourage Metro to undertake robust equity-focused community engagement initiatives — initiatives that welcome historically-underserved community perspectives. By welcoming different perspectives, we can all better understand how Metro can best serve the needs of Angelenos.

"If we reward and encourage sustainable transportation behavior, we will unclog our streets and clean our urban air."

Bryn Lindblad, Associate Director, Climate Resolve

"Our communities have been very clear: we need more routes that run more frequently and investments in the existing bus network."

Omar Gomez, Program Manager, Nature For All