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May 12, 2020

via email

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Subject: **Public Comment – Metro NextGen Bus Plan**

To whom it may concern,

The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council (CeSPNC) is very concerned about Metro's recent decision to eliminate face-to-face community meetings in favor of on-line comments with respect to the proposed NextGen Plan EIR. The Council recognizes the seriousness of distance separation due to the current pandemic, however; we see no reason to rush the EIR decision-making process given the importance of the transit issues that will impact the Central San Pedro area, indeed all of the Harbor Area is already in dire need of improved public transit.

Our recommendations for the proposed implementation of the EIR include:

1. Extension of the roll out deadline so all communities have adequate and ample time to comment on the proposed plan. The local community has not been provided with information about the added impacts of the proposed changes to Harbor Area transit plans.

Further, many of CeSPNC's stakeholders are Spanish speakers and those who lack internet access; the on-line forum will not directly address their concerns.

2. Taking into consideration special Harbor Area impacts on public transit:
 - a. Construction of over 3000+ apartments and houses built with variance and density bonuses that will cause a much higher demand for fast, efficient and reliable local transit;
 - b. The modernization of San Pedro High School which will result in the elimination of much of the previous on-site parking, and which will increase the traffic impacts on local feeder streets to the school;
 - c. The Rancho San Pedro re-development project that adds increased density to Central's downtown area where many residents rely on public transit; and
 - d. The potential traffic gridlock resulting from the construction of the San Pedro Public Market at Ports O'Call which will greatly increase the traffic to and from the proposed development, combined with an increase in container trucks and Cruise Terminal traffic as the economy grows.

3. CeSPNC strongly objects to the complete elimination of the 550 bus and the reduction of services of the Silver Line in light of the impacts identified above. Many of the high-density residential units have been approved, or are in the LA City Planning process, with variances granting reductions in parking spaces based on their proximity to these critical bus routes.
4. CeSPNC strongly supports the improvement of the Western Avenue corridor with a Park and Ride on Western Avenues at 9th Street in conjunction with an express bus that travels on Western Avenue throughout the South Bay to downtown.

The CeSPNC Strongly supports Metro, CeSPNC and adjacent neighborhood councils having a joint community meeting or forum to explore all issues resulting from the impact of the EIR on local transit.

Sincerely,



Carrie Scoville
President

cc: Supervisor Janice Hahn
Mayor Eric Garcetti
Councilmember Joe Buscaino