



January 27, 2021

Metro Board of Directors
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: OPPOSE Amendment A to the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget (Regular Board Meeting, January 2021, Agenda Item #11 File #: 2020-0726) Unless Bus Service is Restored

To the Metro Board of Directors,

We write on behalf of the Leadership Board of Move LA to oppose Amendment A to the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget (Regular Board Meeting, January 2021, Agenda Item #11 File #: 2020-0726) until Metro creates a clear path to restore future bus service.

Move LA supports Amendment B to the FY21 Budget—an increase of 3 Non-Represented FTEs for Equity and Race and 2 for Customer Experience. Move LA also supports investments in real-time identification of customer impacts due to pass-ups, deployment of elevator attendants at various stations, reducing homelessness on the system by 50%, Better Bus engagement, and flexible dispatching of various people with expertise for quick problem response. We ask that the Metro Board move forward these expenditures immediately while requesting Metro staff develop a clear plan to restore Metro bus service by the end of FY21 to historic levels of at least 7 Million Revenue Service Hours and a long-term plan to increase service to 7.7 Million RSH.

As an advocacy and coalition building organization that developed and supported Measures R and M—the funding measures that support operations of the LA Metro system—we have long tracked Metro’s budget and provided feedback on how to allocate funding in regards to capital, operations, and maintenance of the system. The annual budget outlines future expenditures and is the bedrock for levels of service that Metro provides each year. As previous budgets have shown, the baseline established determines future levels of expenditure and service. By maintaining service at the historically low level of approximately 5.6 Million RSH for FY21, it sets an untenable precedent that we cannot support for several reasons.

First, Metro’s very mission is to reduce overall traffic in the County of Los Angeles. As stay-at-home orders are lifted and the COVID-19 vaccine is rolled out, Metro must provide both excellent customer service and robust service to ensure that ridership returns to previous levels. We cannot return to clogged roadways and freeways and the only alternative is safe, socially distanced, frequent, and reliable service, especially on the bus. The roll out of the NextGen Bus Plan, the Better Bus Initiative, and Customer Plan Initiatives provides a unique opportunity to invest in better service, and this is why we support these investments. However, without robust service, these initiatives will not succeed as riders will still view the system as unreliable.

Second, we have always known that Metro's ridership is predominately from low-income households, and a majority are Black and Latino riders. While the investment in employees focused on Equity and Race is an important expenditure, which Move LA supports, it must be matched with direct benefits for the very riders that this Department seeks to serve. As restaurants and other business open, these essential workers want fast, frequent, reliable service with enough social distancing on buses and rail cars to feel safe. And as schools begin to open, Metro should anticipate a sharp increase in ridership as students, parents, teachers, administrators, and other support staff return. If there is no plan to increase service to accommodate these anticipated riders in the next 6 months (encompassing FY21), then ridership will stagnate as workers look for more reliable and safe alternatives. **The equitable choice and the one that would benefit Black, Latino, and other People of Color who will return to work and school would be to provide fast, frequent and reliable service that *drives* ridership, not the other way around.**

Finally, we recommend that Metro hire more unionized transit operators and provide them with flexible benefits using the windfall in sales tax and the anticipated relief from the federal government from both the December 2020 COVID Relief Bill (estimated by Metro staff to be \$450-750 Million), the Biden Administration's relief package. By hiring now, Metro can ensure it has the staff to run service reliably through the rest of the pandemic and offer both paid time off for parents who may endure ongoing school closures as viral flare-ups occur as well as "frontline" pay to operators who voluntarily cover sick colleagues as a result of COVID-19. This will not only ensure Metro has the staff but can ramp up service so that riders see a true alternative to single-occupancy vehicles as they return to work.

Yours in transit,

Eli Lipmen for Move LA
Director of Programming and Development
eli@movela.org
MoveLA.org

January 27th, 2021

Metro Board of Directors
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, Ca 90013

RE: Agenda Item 11: Oppose OR Amend to Increase Bus Service



Christine Louise Mills, Director

Dear Metro Board of Directors and Staff,

Our organization is based in Elysian Valley, a neighborhood that bears the undue pollution burden of the Metrolink Central Maintenance Facility. It is a neighborhood where you have to walk 30 minutes to get to the Metro Gold Line, and where “regular” bus service is only available via Route 96 – a bus that only comes about once an hour and stops running at 8pm. Even so, it’s all we’ve got, and it was on the chopping block in Metro’s NextGen bus plan. For Clean Air Day 2020, we cleaned and maintained our neglected stops with our project, The Bus Still Stops Here. Being a transit user in our neighborhood is already challenging, and the 20% service cuts have made it nearly impossible to ride safely.

While we respectfully acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic impacts riders and drivers, and support the increase in staffing for the Equity and Customer Experience departments in Metro’s proposed mid-year budget adjustment, **Los Angeles River Communities for Environmental Equity opposes Item #11 as currently written.** We need Metro to revise the report to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro’s strategic service goals. And lastly, we need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire more transit operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

We need public transportation that is equitable and allows all Angelenos the dignity of safe travel in a perilous time. We need to stand up for our low income communities of color who rely upon this service and have no viable alternative. We owe it to the health of our entire community to protect these riders by restoring service.

Sincerely,


Christine Louise Mills (Director)

2444 Riverdale Ave. LA, CA 90031
T: 323.302.2257
E: larivercee@gmail.com
www.larcee.org

From: Hannah Gibson <hannahgibster@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:54:20 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: January 28th Metro Board Meeting Agenda Item #54 (Getting Better Loans)

My name is Hannah Gibson and I am a member of LA Forward's Transportation Justice focus group. I commute to work on the train and bus (Silver line/Foothill Transit, Red line/purple Line, Line 20/720), and I strongly support Item 54.

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Hannah Gibson
90032

From: Scarlett De Leon <sdeleon@allianceforcommunitytransit.org>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:50:46 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Item 11 and Item 54

Hi,

Comment for Item 11:

- My name is Scarlett De Leon and I am with ACT-LA. I oppose unless amended. Bus service cuts harm transit riders' health & safety. In order to allow for safe social distancing on transit vehicles during the COVID pandemic, bus riders should have 3x as much personal space. Metro Directors should oppose Metro's midyear budget adjustment unless Metro staff increases bus service to achieve required physical distancing on every bus run. Right now, the mid-year budget adjustment overlooks the individual and public health hazard of overcrowded buses that many low-income riders of color are encountering right now. Sustained bus service cuts since last fall keep transit riders, including essential workers, at risk of COVID infection. I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance themselves during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

Item 54:

My name is Scarlett De Leon and I am with ACT-LA. I strongly support Item 54.

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare-free transit, and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

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Scarlett De Leon (she/her)

Campaign and Organizing Manager | Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles

cell: (323) 404-0119

website: www.allianceforcommunitytransit.org

From: "Gibson, Hannah" <hgibson@lacma.org>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:50:17 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11 - Metro Board Meeting 1/28/21 at 10 am

Dear Metro Board,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Hannah Gibson
El Sereno, Los Angeles
90032

From: Matt Gertz <mgertz1392@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:48:49 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment for January 28 Metro Board Meeting Agenda Item 11

Hello,

My name is Matt Gertz and I am a City of Los Angeles resident. I oppose Item 11, Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and essential workers are forced to ride on crowded buses or wait for another bus to avoid crowding while COVID cases are surging. Low-income and BIPOC communities depend on Metro to get to work and access essential services. Providing unsafe transit as is the current case is unjust for these communities. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

Thank you,
Matt Gertz

From: Babak Dorji <babak.dorji@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:06:05 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hello,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Babak
Los Angeles,
90066

From: John Yi <johnkyi@gmail.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:46:01 PM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Cc: Jessica Meaney <jessica@investinginplace.org>
Subject: Comment on Item 11 for tomorrow's Board Meeting

Dear LA Metro Board,
Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy at a time when COVID is surging, mutating and threatening to outsmart our public health tactics.

Hi, my name is John Yi and I'm a resident of Koreatown, a community that relies heavily on our buses to get to work, see family, and live life - especially the 20 and 720 line. Despite the raging pandemic, I regularly see full buses with no social distancing. And so, why is it that LA Metro continues to deprioritize its largest customer base: the bus riders.

And so, I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

Thank you!

John Yi,
Koreatown Resident
Executive Director, Los Angeles Walks
CA Democratic Party LGBT Caucus Secretary
California Democratic Party's ADEM Delegate for District 53

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John Yi
213-219-2483 | [@johnkyi](https://www.instagram.com/johnkyi)

From: "John E. Kerr" <johnkerr87@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:32:25 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: public comment: Item 11 // FISCAL YEAR 2021 (FY21) MID-YEAR BUDGET

Hi, my name is John Kerr. I am a longtime Metro rider using both Metro Rail and Metro bus service to get to work, run errands, go out and visit friends for the 11 years I've lived in LA. Prior to the pandemic, I've witnessed Metro cut back service hours across the board and dealt with long waits, forced transfers and crowding on Metro lines 2, 4, 10, 14, 16, 20/720, 81 and others. I now live in Northeast LA and take line 81, and the long waits have forced me to consider other transit options where possible. I've even looked into purchasing a private automobile. Now, of course the pandemic has made everything harder and bus service has been cut more to save funds. This is untenable.

Over 75% of transit riders in LA use the bus system. Dependable bus service is overdue and critical to restore transit ridership. Metro must invest in bus service reliability and creating a high quality transit system that primarily serves low-income Angelenos of color without access to cars.

I am lucky that I can now work-from-home during the pandemic, but so many of my fellow Angelenos cannot. In fact, with California reopening more segments of the economy, service workers, who tend to be Metro's core riders and also most likely to not have other transportation options, will be forced to contend with crowded buses and infrequent service to get to their newly open workplaces. We've seen the devastation of this pandemic on this very same demographic. We must make it safer and more convenient for them to get to work. Right now, the mid-year budget adjustment overlooks the individual and public health hazard of overcrowded buses that many low income riders of color are encountering right now. Sustained bus service cuts since last fall keep transit riders, including essential workers, at risk of COVID infection.

As such, I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

Sincerely,
John Kerr

From: Jonathan Simcosky <jsimcosky@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:30:26 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Item 11 // FISCAL YEAR 2021 (FY21) MID-YEAR BUDGET (OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED)

Hi, my name is Jonathan Simcosky and I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

I apprehensively moved to Los Angeles in March from north of Boston. I say apprehensively because I've made a commitment to live car-free and was well aware of LA's anti-pedestrian, anti-transit reputation.

Even accounting for the pandemic, I've found Metro service to be adequate, if far from world-class.

Further cuts to the system would not just wreak havoc on the lives of the City's poor and marginal, but make the City uninhabitable for people like me, who refuse to shape their lives around out-dated technology and the industries that support it. . . in addition to the public health consequences.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

Jonathan Simcosky

816.547.9304

jsimcosky@gmail.com

From: Jake Harrison <mrjakeharrison@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:27:43 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hello Metro Team!

As someone who relied heavily on public transportation for years, I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Best regards,
Jake Rodehuth-Harrison
Los Angeles 90027

From: Kenny Uong <kennymanuong@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:26:43 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: **Comment for Agenda Item #11 - Metro Board Meeting Thursday, 1/27**

Hello,

My name is Kenny Uong and I am writing to urge the Metro Board of Directors to prioritize restoring the 20% cut in bus service. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them being essential workers from communities that are most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice. We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure that riders have access to reliable transit service and plenty of space on buses to safely social distance. Thank you.

- Kenny Uong

From: Austin Phung <austinphung@yahoo.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:23:14 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hello Metro Board Members,

I rely on Metro bus service to get to my essential job and I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

As a regular rider, I see crowded conditions on our buses as well as operators who are worried for their own health and are still roping the front half of the bus, leaving riders crowded in the back. It worries me when I see seniors and mothers with children having to stand. The first phase of NextGen changes have occurred but limited improvements have been made due to service cuts.

Please consider revising the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Austin P
Monterey Park
91754

From: Christine Mills <christinelouisemills@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:23:02 PM PST

To: Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, jdupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, Ara Najarian <anajarian@glendaleca.gov>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, Hilda Solis <firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov>, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, "Lee, Nadine" <LeeN@metro.net>, "Gallagher, Jim" <GallagherJ@metro.net>, "Forgiarini, Joseph" <ForgiariniJ@metro.net>, "Cheung, Conan" <CHEUNGC@metro.net>, "Tu, Stephen" <TUS@metro.net>, "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>, "Ahuja, Nalini" <AhujaN@metro.net>, "Soto, Jesse" <SotoJ@metro.net>, "Mills, Donna" <MillsD@metro.net>, "Cylear Dodds, KeAndra" <cyleardoddsk@metro.net>

Subject: Please **OPPOSE** Item 11 Unless Increased Service is Added

RE: Agenda Item 11: Please Oppose OR Amend to Increase Bus Service

Dear Metro Board of Directors,

Prior to the current COVID-19 surge, my son and I tried to take the Metro Gold Line from the Lincoln Cypress station to Little Tokyo for a much-needed outing. As the train pulled up, I tried to gauge which car would be the safest to enter for myself, my son, and my fellow riders. Each door we glanced in revealed the same scenario: a crowded train car with no possible way to practice social distancing. Not only was every car crowded during non-peak service hours, but a few riders were on board without masks, and it was impossible for other riders to distance themselves from those individuals.

I have seen photos of crowded busses and trains, but this was my first direct experience because I am able to work from home. But many Angelenos – and most Metro riders – cannot. Metro's core users include low income residents, essential workers and Black and Brown communities who depend upon Metro service and have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Clearly, we need MORE service to allow social distancing on these lines.

Acknowledging the risk that the ongoing pandemic poses to Metro users and operators, I **beseech the Metro Board of Directors to oppose Item #11 as currently drafted unless bus service is increased.** Last September you approved service cuts as part of the FY 2021 budget. You also approved Motion 10.1 calling for ongoing staff reports on how the agency could get back to its pre-pandemic baseline, stating plainly: ***"maintaining [the service cuts] for the remainder of the fiscal year is not acceptable for riders nor is it consistent with the agency's strategic priorities."*** The need for safe bus and train rides is greater than ever. Especially as we look ahead to a post-COVID Los Angeles, we should prioritize ramping up services, not maintaining the current austerity schedule.

The day I took my son on the Gold Line, we abandoned the trip, got off the train at the next stop and rode our bikes to our destination. Most Metro riders do not have the privilege to

disembark and find another way. Please support your riders and the health of Los Angeles with increased service.

Yours,

Christine Louise Mills, LAUSD Mom, Metro Rider, Community Advocate

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Christine Louise Mills

Transit Committee Chair, EAPD

Editor (AVID, Premiere)

www.larcee.org

323.302.2257

From: Mel Guerry <melyssaguerry@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:17:09 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I am a frequent transit user. The cuts have made my life significantly harder. Metro needs to increase service.

Hence, I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Sincerely,
Mel Guerry
Hermosa Beach
90254

From: Julie Lorenzen <ophelia.dane@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:11:04 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hello Mayor,

I am a professional full time worker who relies on public transport. I heartily support the state, county and city's initiatives for sustainability and do not have a car, responsibly using walking, biking and all means of public transport for daily life.

Please! It is distressing to me that Metro is cutting public transport services in our time of need. I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Thank you.

Julie Lorenzen
11150 Santa Monica Blvd
90025

From: John A Espinoza <John@realtorofla.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:09:43 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

John Espinoza
Sylmar
91342

From: erich bollmann <erich.bollmann@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:07:23 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Metro Board Members,

As a bus rider and supporter of fellow working Angelenos, I am writing today to oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them frontline and essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We desperately need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not dangerously overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now. I strongly urge you to please take into account the essential workers and vulnerable community members who have no choice but to use Metro buses, and for their sake, increase bus service so as to not further endanger them and our fellow Angelenos.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,
Erich Bollmann
Los Angeles, CA 90029

From: Valerie Hurt <vr.hurt@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 12:04:44 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hello,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Valerie Hurt
90048

From: Daniel Bezinovich <daniel.bezinovich@spin.pm>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:57:09 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Daniel Bezinovich
Los Angeles
90006

From: Andrew Reich <andrewlreich@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:56:55 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, Sheila Kuehl <sheila@bos.lacounty.gov>, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, Hilda Solis <firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov>, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

This is not the time to be cutting bus service.

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Andrew Reich
Los Angeles
90004

From: Liana Jegers <lianajegers@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:56:54 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear all,

I am writing to make known my opposition to Item #11 as it is currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice. And while we're really still in the depths of this pandemic, it seems both ignorant and irresponsible to not restore service that might otherwise uncrowd the Metro which in turn could help keep infection rates low.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to, and we must, increase bus service now. It is always better to err on the side of helping too many people than to swing low and not help enough.

Liana Jegers
Los Angeles
90004

From: John Perry <abqstreetcar@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:54:49 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Reply-To: abqstreetcar@gmail.com

To the members of the Metro Board:

I am writing in opposition of Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice, and must be corrected immediately.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

John Perry
Pasadena resident and transit rider
91106

-

From: Zennon Ulyate-Crow <zennonuc@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:54:31 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Zennon Ulyate-Crow
Topanga, CA
90290

From: AZIZ FELLAGUE ARIOUAT <afellague@g.ucla.edu>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:53:58 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Board of Directors,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts Black and brown bus riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers who are most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that aligns with the transformational NextGen Bus Plan. We need Metro to put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now, and as a matter of fact, improve bus service to levels not seen since pre-Great Recession.

Aziz Fellague Ariouat
Torrance
90503

--

Aziz Fellague Ariouat

He/Him/His

Master of Urban and Regional Planning Candidate, UCLA '22

From: Jessica Elaina Eason <jesspatsox@gmail.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:50:41 AM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Subject: I SUPPORT Item 54 and oppose item #11

Dear Metro Board,

I am writing with regard to January 28th Metro Board Meeting Agenda Items #11 (Midyear Budget) and #54 (Getting Better Loans).

Metro's priority must be to restore bus service and keep the people who rely on it safe. As a non-driver in Los Angeles, I know that bus service was already inadequate before the 20% service cuts. To cut service during a pandemic borders on criminal endangerment of the same people we know are already among the most vulnerable to the pandemic in our city.

I will remind you of your own words in the motion passed last year: "maintaining [the service cuts] for the remainder of the fiscal year is not acceptable for riders nor is it consistent with the agency's strategic priorities."

I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

I also support Item 54. Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit, and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jessica Eason, bus rider, Los Angeles

From: Ben Humbert <benhumbert4@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:50:14 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hello,

I oppose Item #11 in its current form. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts many essential workers at risk, with many of those coming from communities most impacted by COVID.

Metro needs to revise the budget to expand bus service to prevent overcrowding. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. Metro should utilize the COVID relief funds to hire union operators and increase service.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Ben H
Los Angeles
90048

From: Dave Frederick <frameup@aol.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:50:05 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Greetings!

I am writing to express my opinion that Metro ought to expand its bus service versus making any curtailing actions. The busiest times are seeing over crowded busses and this makes being a rider dangerous in the present pandemic time.

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Thank you for reading my comments.

David Frederick, SOC
Sherman Oaks, CA
91403

From: Sandra Romero <sandrar1011@gmail.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:32:41 AM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Subject: **Public Comment for item #11**

Good morning,

I would like to submit a public comment on item 11 of tomorrow's meeting.

The current operations of Metro's buses do not allow for social distancing of LA's most vulnerable communities. Metro should use the \$300 windfall to restore bus service as much as possible to pre-pandemic levels. As a community member in Southeast LA the buses remain packed during peak hours on lines 760, 60, 251, and 751. Social distancing is not possible with a reduced schedule.

I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Best,
Sandra

From: Kelsey Stefanson <kelsey.stefanson@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:26:24 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Restore Metro bus service!

Hello, I am writing to oppose Item 11 unless amended. I am a resident of Silver Lake in Los Angeles and rely on the bus service to commute to work, as many thousands of others across the city do. Metro must revise the budget to increase bus service, especially considering the need for extra buses to maintain safe social distancing amidst a continuing horrific covid outbreak. Essential workers in Los Angeles who do not have the privilege to work from home disproportionately rely on the bus to reach their jobs and we should not be putting them at further risk by offering low levels of bus service.

Metro cannot continue the cycle of cutting service in reaction to low ridership; the city of LA deserves adequate service that will attract riders with its consistency, convenience, and now more than ever, safety.

Thank you,
Kelsey Stefanson

From: Kendra Beltran <beltran_kendra@yahoo.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:17:49 AM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Subject: Regular Board Meeting - 1/28/21 - 10am - Comment/Concern/Question
Reply-To: Kendra Beltran <beltran_kendra@yahoo.com>

Hi Jackson,

I wanted to submit my questions/comments for the 1/28/2021 board meeting.

COMMENT: I have spent enough time using LA Metro since moving to Northridge in 2005 for college than I'd like to admit because even before the pandemic - the service was underwhelming; long wait times, overcrowding, police only around during peak hours to catch people not paying instead of at night when people like myself, young women are heading home from social engagements or work. Since first stepping onto the 240 in the valley 16 years ago, I have noticed that the people sitting next to me daily have been from the Black, Hispanic, and Asian community. A lot of them in the 40+ age range.

CONCERN: Now I'm hearing issues that predated the pandemic are increasing in a time where these people have no other option but to use LA Metro services for essential errands; doctor's appointments, getting to and from work, etc. It's no secret that POC communities are always given the short end of the stick. We've seen this time and time again throughout history but it is 2021 and we're still having this conversation and I'm tired of asking why that is, and more concerned with the how. How is LA going to showcase it cares about every citizen instead of just the wealthy and white because from what I've seen, and I think regular riders will agree, white people with a little extra in their pocket tend to only utilize Metro when there is a sporting event or a concert at the Hollywood Bowl. How can you tell? Well, they have a deer in headlights look on their faces when they try to buy a Tap card, and act as if they'll be harmed in an instant when stepping into a subway car.

QUESTION: I'm sure you have the data on who rides the bus most, where service is lacking, etc - it's time to stop catering to the Wilshire District of little businessmen and women, and start putting your attention towards underserved communities. Do you know how long it takes to get around the San Fernando Valley? Miss one bus and you're stuck at a stop for upwards of 45 minutes in various weather conditions. There is not a single person on the board that would say that is fair, right? So why impose this on your riders?

Have a great one,
Kendra

From: angela.dugas@gmail.com

Date: January 27, 2021 at 11:15:58 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Bus service reductions

Hello,

I'm a public transport user whose ability to navigate the city/get to work has been seriously impacted by service reductions and the risk posed by resulting overcrowding during the covid pandemic. Public transportation in LA is used in far greater numbers by essential workers, people of color, the elderly, and those facing the greatest economic hardship. To compound the existing high risk with greater exposure on needed public transportation is cruel and bad policy. I have ridden busses packed with older people where not even the windows are open to allow for air circulation. This is unacceptable- the least that could be done is to maintain regular service and require not just masks but open windows and use of all available ventilation. Please consider these changes and the health of the population at this incredibly difficult time.

Thank you.

Angela Vroom

Los Angeles resident

From: Foster Wilson <jofosterwilson@gmail.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 10:54:02 AM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Cc: HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov
Subject: Reinstatement full bus service now

Dear Metro Board,

I am writing with regard to January 28th Metro Board Meeting Agenda Items #11 (Midyear Budget) and #54 (Getting Better Loans).

Metro's priority must be to restore bus service and keep the people who rely on it safe. I know that bus service was already inadequate before the 20% service cuts. To cut service during a pandemic borders on criminal endangerment of the same people we know are already among the most vulnerable to the pandemic in our city.

I will remind you of your own words in the motion passed last year: "maintaining [the service cuts] for the remainder of the fiscal year is not acceptable for riders nor is it consistent with the agency's strategic priorities."

I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

I also support Item 54. Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit, and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Foster Wilson, 90041

From: Amanda Begley <amandabegs77@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 10:46:29 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: **Item 11: FISCAL YEAR 2021 (FY21) MID-YEAR BUDGET (OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED)**

Hello, my name is Amanda Begley and I am a Metro rider.

My comments pertain to the January 28th Metro Board Meeting Agenda - Items #11 (Midyear Budget) and #54 (Getting Better Loans).

I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall, and now the state is opening back up for many businesses whose workers are dependent on transit to get to and from work. To make sure COVID cases don't begin to surge again we must ensure buses are not crowded. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance ourselves without waiting extra time for another bus.

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy at a time when COVID is surging, mutating, and threatening to outsmart our public health tactics.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Amanda Begley

Los Angeles, 90027

From: Thurmon Green <thurmongreen1@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 10:15:43 AM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Metro Board Meeting Agenda Items #11 (Midyear Budget) and #54 (Getting Better Loans)

Hello,

Right now, Metro buses are packed with Angelenos trying to survive in this chaotic time. They need/deserve high quality bus service more than ever. Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy at a time when COVID is surging, mutating and threatening to outsmart our public health tactics

I do not drive a car and use Metro to complete my essential errands. I have notice service declining and buses becoming more and more crowded.

I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

I strongly support Item 54.

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

-Thurmon
90019

From: Kim Young <kyoung3264@gmail.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 10:08:41 AM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Subject: public comment 1/28 mtg

Dear Metro Board,

I am writing with regard to January 28th Metro Board Meeting Agenda Items #11 (Midyear Budget) and #54 (Getting Better Loans).

Metro's priority must be to restore bus service and keep the people who rely on it safe. As a non-driver in Los Angeles, I know that bus service was already inadequate before the 20% service cuts. To cut service during a pandemic borders on criminal endangerment of the same people we know are already among the most vulnerable to the pandemic in our city.

I will remind you of your own words in the motion passed last year: "maintaining [the service cuts] for the remainder of the fiscal year is not acceptable for riders nor is it consistent with the agency's strategic priorities."

I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

I also support Item 54. Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit, and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kim Young, Los Angeles

From: Jenna Hoover <jenna.c.hoover@gmail.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 6:49:53 AM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>
Subject: **1/28 Board Meeting Comment re: Item #11**

Board Secretary Jackson,

As a constituent of Pomona, CA, I wanted to share my public comment that I oppose Item #11 as currently written. While I support the increase in staffing for the Equity and Customer Experience departments in Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, we need Metro to revise the report to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. And lastly, we need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire more transit operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Thanks,
Jenna Hoover
901 N San Antonio Ave, Pomona, CA 91767

From: Nick Forgey <nickf3710@gmail.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 9:47:52 AM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>
Subject: **Please Increase Bus Service**

Secretary Jackson,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. While I support the increase in staffing for the Equity and Customer Experience departments in Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, we need Metro to revise the report to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. And lastly, we need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire more transit operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Forgey

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lorenzo Mutia <lrmutia@yahoo.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:17:01 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now. This money can and should go towards Nextgen bus service improvements as well. What is the point of implementing Nextgen without giving it the funds to succeed? Riders deserve better. Keeping the cuts in place is abhorrent.

Lorenzo Mutia
Panorama City – Los Angeles
91402

From: Matthew Rasenick <matthewraz@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:12:23 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment on Item 11

Any extra revenue right now MUST be used to provide the bus service at the frequencies promised in NextGen. This is a terrible time to have overcrowding on our buses! We know that financial help for Metro is on the way from the federal government, but the people of Los Angeles who depend on your buses are experiencing the consequences of reduced service TODAY and TOMORROW and can't wait for help from Washington. Restoring service should be your FIRST and IMMEDIATE priority, and your current ridership cannot be ignored.

Matthew Rasenick
2475 Silver Lake Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90039

From: Natalie Smyka <natalie.smyka@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:11:22 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hello,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Sincerely,
Natalie Smyka
Los Feliz

From: Mehmet Berker <mehmetikberker@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:07:54 PM PST

To: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Cc: "Lee, Nadine" <LeeN@metro.net>, "Gallagher, Jim" <GallagherJ@metro.net>, "Forgiarini, Joseph" <ForgiariniJ@metro.net>, "Cheung, Conan" <CHEUNGCC@metro.net>, "Tu, Stephen" <TUS@metro.net>, "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>, "Ahuja, Nalini" <AhujaN@metro.net>, "Soto, Jesse" <SotoJ@metro.net>, "Mills, Donna" <MillsD@metro.net>, "Cylear Dodds, KeAndra" <cyleardoddsk@metro.net>

Subject: Opposition to Metro Board Item 11 for 1/28/21 -- Opposed to Metro Staff Recommendation to Not Restore Bus Service

Dear Mr. Washington and Metro leadership,

I write to you in strong opposition to item 11 from the [upcoming Metro Board agenda](#) unless the FY-21 Mid Year Budget is changed to allocate some of the budget surplus to restore bus service which was reduced by 20% in March of 2020.

Throughout the pandemic, our communities of color and our poor have had to bear the brunt of the ravages of the virus. Mainly because they **disproportionately make up the ranks of our essential workers** or otherwise cannot work from home. Indeed, as [recent work](#) from the Advancement Project makes clear, the communities most impacted and vulnerable to COVID are our Equity-focus Communities. As you are well aware, Metro bus system ridership is extremely skewed towards the very poor, **with 57% of Metro bus riders living under the poverty line.** Indeed the median income of a Metro bus rider is \$17,975, and 40% of Metro bus riders have a *household* income of under \$15,000 a year.

In short, Metro's bus riders are reliant on the bus, have less flexibility in both their ability to stay at home and in their ability to travel in other means.

Governor Newsom has just made announcements to re-open businesses and schools. Now, if you ask me, this is premature and when the spike from our new variant hits in February we may well see a re-closing. But, a) I could well be wrong in the state's response of course, and b) as more of our population is vaccinated over the spring and summer restrictions will indeed be lifted and we can expect even *more* demand on Metro bus riders to ride the bus.

Under Metro's own guidelines, **bus riders should have three times as much space** to safely socially distance while on buses. But, Metro cutting service in March 2020 has precluded the ability to truly offer that safety to riders. Metro may say it can move hours internally between routes, but there's no way around it--you've made a smaller pie for service and riders suffer. In fact, Metro should, by all accounts, have *more* service than under normal circumstances to allow for proper social distancing.

Admittedly, COVID has been tough on Metro's budget. However, it has not been as hard as on other cities' systems, in main part because our ridership has stayed relatively strong, because, as mentioned earlier, our ridership is especially transit-dependent. Metro has received, and is set to receive more, CARES and COVID relief funding for operations. In any event, what we're talking about now is a budget surplus brought about by higher than anticipated sales tax figures -- funding Metro through our sales tax dollars and how to spend *that* money.

In September of 2020, the Metro Board adopted the FY-21 Budget of \$6B. As part of that, a motion (10.1) was passed. This motion stated plainly: **“maintaining [the service cuts] for the remainder of the fiscal year is not acceptable for riders nor is it consistent with the agency’s strategic priorities.”** The motion also calls for reports back every 60 days of an FY21 Operations Recovery Plan that restores revenue service hours for, in particular, in anticipation of future on-street conditions related to economic sector and/or school reopenings and the return of traffic congestion and effect on bus speeds.

To put it plainly, **it seems Metro staff is explicitly ignoring this clear direction from the board.** At the very least staff is not showing how this budget is not in direct contravention of the goals expressed in Motion 10.1. To put it even more simply: The Metro Board directed Metro staff to **prioritize adding bus service hours back into the Metro budget as things changed and if funding became available.** Well they did and it did, yet Metro staff has not recommended directing any of this unexpected surplus into bus service.

At a larger level, we have adopted NextGen and are supposed to be implementing it in full eventually, phasing it in to account for the budget crunch of COVID. Metro staff is not recommending that here, they are ignoring it.

Bus service is Metro's core competency--if Metro cannot use *any* of a \$300M surplus (\$58.6M allocated as Operations eligible) in the FY-21 Mid Year Budget to restore some of the 20% of service it cut, I'm sorry, but what are we even doing here? How is this an organization that is showing any urgency or dedication to its core mission? We already lost service levels during the Great Recession that Metro has never restored. We already have opted to tax ourselves in Measure R and Measure M to get better bus service.

I am extremely frustrated and worried that rather than honor that commitment and invest in our service--both for the moral reasons of keeping Metro riders safe during a pandemic, and for the fiscal reasons of building more ridership through better service (a well-proven link), Metro staff is ignoring the core mission for things that yes, can be delayed until our economy recovers more. We cannot accept an increasingly threadbare Metro system, trapped in a vicious cycle of losing ridership because Metro leadership never takes the mandate we as voters gave it to make a large investment in service to get back riders and create a new, virtuous cycle of increasing service leading to increasing ridership and system health.

Please reconsider the FY-21 Mid Year Budget recommendation from staff and direct staff to direct funds to reestablish some, if not all, of the service hours cut back in March of 2020.

Thank you,

Mehmet

Metro transit-dependent rider interested in the health and safety of my fellow riders and the long-term health of our system.

--

Mehmet Berker

From: Jordan Blakeman <jordanblakeman@gmail.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:07:42 PM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Subject: January 28th Metro Board Meeting // Items #11 & #54

Hi Jackson,

My name is Jordan and I am a member of Ktown For All.

I am emailing to **OPPOSE Item 11** until significant changes are made. We need more buses to ensure the safety of our riders. We've never had a proper shutdown and many of our essential workers are still needing to get to their jobs, and how have absolutely no vaccine prioritization anymore. We can't leave them vulnerable and must protect our community.

I'm also emailing to **SUPPORT Item 54**. Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

Thank you for your time!

Best,
Jordan Blakeman

From: Felipe Rojas <feliperojas8529@gmail.com>

Date: January 26, 2021 at 11:29:06 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment (January 28 Metro Board Meeting, Agenda Item #54)

Item #54: CREATION OF FEDERAL RESERVE STATE & LOCAL AGENCY LENDING FACILITY

My name is Felipe Rojas, and I strongly support Item 54.

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

From: Felipe Rojas <feliperojas8529@gmail.com>

Date: January 26, 2021 at 11:22:14 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment (January 28 Metro Board Meeting, Agenda Item #11)

Item #11: FISCAL YEAR 2021 (FY21) MID-YEAR BUDGET

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy at a time when COVID is surging, mutating and threatening to outsmart our public health tactics.

Hi, my name is Felipe Rojas. Before the pandemic forced the campus to close, I have ridden lines 258, 125, and 53 to Cal State Dominguez Hills since Fall 2018. I currently attend classes from home. I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall. Although I attend classes at home, I have read stories where bus riders ride crowded buses, skip buses because they're crowded, and are forced to wait long periods of time for buses while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

Bus service improvements are long overdue. Over 75% of transit riders in LA use the bus system. Dependable bus service is overdue and critical to restore transit ridership. Metro must invest in bus service reliability and creating a high quality transit system that primarily serves low-income Angelenos of color without access to cars.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

From: Catherine <copperccg@aol.com>
Date: January 26, 2021 at 10:41:16 PM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Subject: Please keep the metro busses running
Reply-To: Catherine <copperccg@aol.com>

Hi, my name is Catherine Gallagher and I am a concerned citizen who lives in Monrovia. I am sensitive to the needs of those in our community who at this time more than ever must have safe transportation access to healthcare, COVID vaccines, essential work, and COVID testing. I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Our community relies on bus ridership, and we must maintain the safety of our riders and our drivers.

We need to preserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus. I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

Regarding Item #54:

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

Catherine Gallagher
Monrovia, CA

From: Laura Navar <sweetgrassbh@gmail.com>

Date: January 26, 2021 at 5:25:59 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>, Laura Navar <sweetgrassbh@gmail.com>

Subject: FISCAL YEAR 2021 (FY21) MID-YEAR BUDGET (OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED)

Hello,

My name is Laura Navar and a long time bus rider. I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours. Once I get the vaccine and stop working mostly from home I will be using the buses regularly and want to know its safe.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and now I am seeing a increase in buss riders and in general people waiting for the bus. During this pandemic we need to reduce proximity with those not in our household and more so in enclosed spaces. La residents need a dependable and safe public transportation system. We have repeatedly voted to support public transportation through our sales taxes. There is also the issue of justice and equity as the ridership reflects those more affected by COVID.

I am urging Directors to invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic, please oppose the ,id year budget unless its amended. Thank you.

-Laura Navar

From: Sarah Syed <sarah@reparativeplanning.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:21:44 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, mayor@longbeach.gov

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Metro Board of Directors:

I oppose Item #11 on the January 28, 2021 agenda and support the restoration and expansion of bus service.

Metro can save and change lives by changing what it funds. Please use your power to reverse Metro's disinvestment in Los Angeles' lowest income most vulnerable Black and brown communities. Essential workers who ride transit, as well our transit operators, keep me, and all of us with the privilege to avoid transit, safe. We all depend on essential workers who depend on transit; we are all transit-dependent.

As noted in a recent report, "Metro riders are overwhelmingly nonwhite. Close to half of all Metro riders have household incomes under \$15,000. The median household income of riders hovers near \$16,000, and the average income barely exceeds \$25,000. Heavy transit use is concentrated among the low-income population, and especially low-income foreign-born residents. Metro's riders are predominately low-income nonwhite people with little vehicle access, people who live and move very differently than the typical Southern Californian."¹

Metro's Strategic Plan calls for bold action to address the root causes of our transportation problems and employs the idea of the curb-cut effect, "the concept that when the transportation system is designed to meet the needs of its most vulnerable users, the benefits cascade to everyone."² Metro's investment in restoring and increasing bus service will save lives. It will also cascade out and up and be a substantial investment in the broader well-being of our region.

Racism is a public health crisis. We see the structural racism embedded in our region in who is being disproportionately impacted by COVID, and in how our institutions are responding to racial injustice. Metro's Equity Platform Framework acknowledges that in transportation "historically and currently, race and class have largely defined where these disparities are most concentrated: in poor, minority communities throughout LA County. Age, gender, disability, and residency also can expand or constrain opportunities" (2017-0912 - Metro, Equity Platform Framework). You have the power to affect more equitable outcomes.

Thank you for investing in frequent reliable bus service to create a high-quality transit system that serves low-income Angelenos of color without access to cars.

Sincerely,
Sarah Syed
Pasadena
91103

1. Metro data reported in Manville, Taylor, and Blumenberg, Falling Transit Ridership: California and Southern California report for the Southern California Association of Governments, January 2018, 5, 26-27. Accessible at: <https://scag.ca.gov/post/falling-transit-ridership-california-and-southern-california>
2. Blackwell, Angela Glover. "The Curb-Cut Effect." Stanford Social Innovation

From: Danai Z <dz262@cornell.edu>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:25:31 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Item 11 // FISCAL YEAR 2021 (FY21) MID-YEAR BUDGET (OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED)

January 28th Metro Board Meeting Agenda - Item 11 // FISCAL YEAR 2021 (FY21) MID-YEAR BUDGET (OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED)

Hello,

My name is Danai Zaire and I live in El Sereno. I work in downtown Los Angeles as a planner for the City and I don't have other transportation options. Metro should revise the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and people that depend on the bus to go to work. Metro should adopt a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours and re-examine their service routes especially for low-income/disadvantaged communities.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall. Going from El Sereno to downtown is a 10 minute drive or a 54 min total commute if I try to get the 78/79 bus. I don't own a car but I am seriously considering getting one because of how inconvenient the service is. To take the bus I have to cross Huntington and every time I feel I will get hit by oncoming traffic. The bus stop and the pedestrian crossings to reach the bus stop are not safe. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that feels safe to use and without waiting extended periods of time at an unsafe bus stop (highly exposed to the elements and air/sound pollution) for another bus.

I am urging Directors to amend Metro's mid-year budget adjustment to make bus service more dependable and safe for all to use.

Thank you.

Danai Zaire

From: Alex Fumero <alex.fumero@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:28:42 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Item #11 - Restore Bus Service

To the Metro Board–

I call on you to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased.

With Governor Newsom's announcements on re-opening businesses and schools, even more people will need to get to work and school.

These essential workers rely on the bus as a lifeline and Black, Indigenous, Latino and other people of color who ride the bus are also being impacted by this pandemic at higher rates than any other population.

The windfall sales tax revenue and stimulus money must benefit these riders first and call on the Metro Board to hire more bus drivers, fund more buses and create reliable and safe bus service for all.

Best,

Alex Fumero

Los Angeles Resident - 90028

--

Alex Fumero

(917) 304 - 6711 Cellular

alex.fumero@gmail.com

From: J Morataya <jam73143@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:32:35 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11 - Oppose

Hello Metro Board Members,

I am calling for the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. Throughout the year, Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities and frontline workers have been exposed to the worst of the COVID pandemic. These communities are also most likely to bear the brunt of funding cuts and service reductions. We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded and unreliable. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals and adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service level of at least 7.5 million revenue service hours.

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Jenny Morataya
Los Angeles, 90036

From: Kendall Kaufmann <kendallkaufmann@groundgamela.org>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:35:46 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: **Item #11 and Item #54 - Restore Bus Service and Save Money with Better Loans**

Hi,

My name is Kendall and I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and I am now avoiding travelling while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. Many people don't have that luxury. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

Public transit is the community infrastructure that connects us to jobs, school, healthcare and family. It's a public service, not a business, and it should be run as such. Successive investment to increase bus service, install bus infrastructure, and realize a fare-free system are key to racial and economic justice for low-income Black, Latinx, immigrant and youth who overwhelmingly make up Metro's ridership and depend on Metro for rides that do not compromise their health.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

From: BERNADETTE JAEGER <brinajael@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:33:05 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Metro's current 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day. Many of them are essential workers who come from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are dangerous.

Metro needs to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. Metro needs to put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Bernadette Jaeger
Los Angeles

From: Hans Beischel <hanslikestophonebank@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:47:24 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, Craig Bardenheuer <craigbardenheuer@gmail.com>, Jody Bardenheuer <jodybardenheuer@gmail.com>, Lee Bardenheuer <ljbard@yahoo.com>, Mathew Barletta <mathewbarletta@gmail.com>, Kelly Beischel <beischelk@gmail.com>, Will Beischel <wbeischel@gmail.com>, Megan Berardi <berardme@gmail.com>, Dylan Cullen <dylanmcullen@gmail.com>, Megan Frenzen <frenzen@champlain.edu>, Cody Gardner <gardncaa@gmail.com>, Kaitlin McIntyre Hawk <kaitlin@bluelounge.com>, Christian Hendricks <christianahendricks@icloud.com>, Colton Jacob Hinman <jacob_hinman@yahoo.com>, Brittany Leaning <brittanyleaning@gmail.com>, Daniel Moore <danielrmoore@icloud.com>, Sam Parker <sparker0019@gmail.com>, Jake Allen Rauber <jakerauber@icloud.com>, Adam Russell <adamerussell@me.com>, Erica Viscio <ericaviscio@gmail.com>, Kristoff Wright <kristoffer.wright.10@ucl.ac.uk>, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

Hello —

I am writing to urge the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as it is currently written—unless service is increased.

I urge you to revise the mid-year budget and guarantee bus service is reliable, consistent, and safe for all Angelenos—service cuts and overcrowding are an abject failure of this Board.

You must not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors. You must support your own strategic service goals and adopt a budget plan that returns us to pre-Covid service levels of at least 7.5 million revenue service hours. This is particularly prudent as our state, county, and city officials continue to ignore sound science and rocket us toward a hellish economic reopening—one that our transit system is woefully underprepared for.

The Board has a moral responsibility to use surplus funds to restore the services that Angelenos—particularly Black, Indigenous, and people of color—rely on to navigate our city. By continuing a model of reduced service and/or prioritizing capital projects whose principal beneficiaries will be the corporate interests propping up the nightmarish LA28 games (which, I should mention the people of this city did not consent to), you bankrupt our transit system and your own moral standing.

Thank you,
Hans

From: Sara Roos <sararoosmv@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:42:51 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Oppose Item #11

I urge you to vote NO on item #11.

With state coffers bursting during pandemic (due to windfall profits from billionaires) and the federal government discussing state support in the billions of dollars, it is not the case that we cannot afford to subsidize public transit in its hour of need.

This is an urgent issue of fairness not to mention decent support from our government for human and social services.

Under pandemic conditions where it is vital that humans stay separated as much as possible to mitigate spread of the virus, our social services should be stepping up assistance, not cutting back. And we can afford to do so. We must do so: support society's needs by boosting safety in ample, excellent, public transit.

I urge your support in OPPOSING funding cuts and service reduction. Please vote NO on item #11.

Thank you.

Sara Roos.
LACDP member for AD54

From: Cyndi Otteson <cyndi.otteson@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:25:22 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

To the Metro Board,

I oppose Item #11 as it is currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID.

Black, Indigenous, and people of color are disproportionately affected by this pandemic. Along with frontline workers, people of color have been exposed to dangerous conditions because of Metro's funding cuts. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

I am urging Metro to revise the mid-year budget to **increase** bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Cyndi Otteson
Los Angeles
90041

From: Ray Muneton <mrs.muneton@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:22:10 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I ride the bus to my tech job in Culver City, pretty please rescind the proposed cut so my wait doesn't increase.

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Name

City

Zip Code

From: Emily Han <emlyhn@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:23:10 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Metro Board,

I am a Los Angeles resident and a regular transit rider pre-pandemic, and I oppose Item #11 as currently written. I ask that you portion some of the \$282.2 million in additional sales tax revenues towards restoring and improving bus service.

While my job allows me to work from home, I still believe in supporting reliable bus service. Many Angelenos work in essential sectors and rely on our buses to get to work -- they are my neighbors and I see them waiting at bus stops. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts those riders at risk every day, many of them coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded and allow for proper physical distancing. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals and Equity Platform. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Thank you,
Emily H
Los Angeles
90011

From: Jessica Barclay-Strobel <fantastic_bs@hotmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:18:14 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment: oppose Item 11 & support item 54

As a public transportation rider, I urge you to please:

Oppose Item 11 and, instead, expand public transportation services. Rather than Metro's 20% cut in bus service, which puts riders at risk, we need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. **We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors** and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. Between the additional \$282.2 million in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940 million in federal funds for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Support Item 54. Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

Jess Barclay
LA 90034

From: Benina Stern <bpacystern@aol.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:19:47 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

Hello,

I am writing to call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. Throughout the year, Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities and frontline workers have been exposed to the worst of the COVID pandemic. These communities are also most likely to bear the brunt of funding cuts and service reductions. With these budget cuts, I've seen crowded buses that do not allow for six feet of social distancing, packed with people standing close to other passengers as well as crowding at bus stops waiting for the next bus. The virus will be with us for a long time, and it is vital that Metro buses are not vectors of spreading it.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded and unreliable. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals and adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service level of at least 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Best,

Benina, 90025

From: Phoenix Tso <phoenix.tso@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:28:42 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hello,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Phoenix Tso
Los Angeles
90006

From: Michael Schneider <m@michaelschneider.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:59:35 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Metro Leaders -

When you cut bus service by 20% at the beginning of COVID, we couldn't foresee the impact reduced sales taxes would have on your budget, nor on the impact COVID would have on essential workers. We now know that you have uncovered nearly \$300M of unexpected sales tax revenue, of which \$40M+ can be used towards operations. The new Biden administration will also give over \$1B of federal dollars towards LA County transit.

It is time to restore the 20% you previously reduced, and increase bus service hours to at least 7.5M revenue service hours, our pre-COVID number. I oppose Item #11 as currently written, and ask that staff do better and listen to the board members that have continuously expressed concerns about the impact of service reductions. **We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded.** We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Thank you,
Michael Schneider
Los Angeles, 90046

From: Michael Schneider <m@michaelschneider.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:59:35 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Metro Leaders -

When you cut bus service by 20% at the beginning of COVID, we couldn't foresee the impact reduced sales taxes would have on your budget, nor on the impact COVID would have on essential workers. We now know that you have uncovered nearly \$300M of unexpected sales tax revenue, of which \$40M+ can be used towards operations. The new Biden administration will also give over \$1B of federal dollars towards LA County transit.

It is time to restore the 20% you previously reduced, and increase bus service hours to at least 7.5M revenue service hours, our pre-COVID number. I oppose Item #11 as currently written, and ask that staff do better and listen to the board members that have continuously expressed concerns about the impact of service reductions. **We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded.** We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Thank you,
Michael Schneider
Los Angeles, 90046

From: Rebecca Lando <rebecca@tongal.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:33:59 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: A Public Comment on Item 11

I oppose Item #11 in its current form. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Rebecca Lando
Los Angeles
90039

From: Carey Bennett <careyjeanbennett@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:58:38 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Carey Bennett
Los Angeles
90027

From: Anna Josenhans <annamjosenhans@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:46:20 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Community Leaders,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Anna Josenhans & Greg Hayden
2748 Westshire Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90068
(323) 463-6303

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." *Martin Luther King*

From: Hans Beischel <hanslikestophonebank@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 1:54:13 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

** Apologies if this is a duplicate comment (below). Seem to be having email troubles. **

—

Hello —

I am writing to urge the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as it is currently written—unless service is increased.

I urge you to revise the mid-year budget and guarantee bus service is reliable, consistent, and safe for all Angelenos—service cuts and overcrowding are an abject failure of this Board.

You must not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors. You must support your own strategic service goals and adopt a budget plan that returns us to pre-Covid service levels of at least 7.5 million revenue service hours. This is particularly prudent as our state, county, and city officials continue to ignore sound science and rocket us toward a hellish economic reopening—one that our transit system is woefully underprepared for.

The Board has a moral responsibility to use surplus funds to restore the services that Angelenos—particularly Black, Indigenous, and people of color—rely on to navigate our city. By continuing a model of reduced service and/or prioritizing capital projects whose principal beneficiaries will be the the corporate interests propping up the nightmarish LA28 games (which, I should mention the people of this city did not consent to), you bankrupt our transit system and your own moral standing.

Thank you,
Hans

From: J Ro <jrodri1376@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 5:44:01 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Metro Board Members and Decision Makers,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Jennifer
Los Angeles City
90065

From: Matt Ruscigno <mattruscigno@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:47:50 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Item 11 Public Comment

Reply-To: mattruscigno@gmail.com

hello,

My comments re item 11 are below.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded.

We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals.

Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

thank you

Matt Ruscigno, MPH, RD

LA 90028

From: Mary Button <marybutton59@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:44:46 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, Paul Krekorian <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

To Mayor Garcetti and members of L.A. City Council,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written.

Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID.

Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Thanks for listening.

Mary Button

Los Angeles (a resident of Los Angeles for 35 years)

90068

From: Rabeya Sen <rabeya@esperanzacommunityhousing.org>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:43:48 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Esperanza Community Housing Public Comment: 1/28/21 LA Metro Metro Board Meeting -- Agenda Item #54 (Getting Better Loans)

Dear LA Metro Board,

On behalf of Esperanza Community Housing Corporation and as a proud member of the ACT-LA coalition, I am sending this public comment on Agenda Item #54 (Getting Better Loans) for tomorrow's LA Metro Board Meeting.

We strongly support Item 54.

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

We support this motion to save our budget for priorities such as improved bus service, fare-free transit, and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time.

Thank you,
Rabeya Sen

*Rabeya Sen
Director of Policy
Esperanza Community Housing Corporation*

Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:33:14 PM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Subject: Public comment on item 11

Item 11 // FISCAL YEAR 2021 (FY21) MID-YEAR BUDGET (OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED)

Hi, my name is Adam Conover. I live in Los Feliz, and I ride the Metro Bus to and from work because I do not have other transportation options. I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall. I now feel unsafe to ride the bus while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

--

Adam Conover

From: Carmina Calderon <calderoncarmina@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:39:29 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Metro Board Meeting 1.28.21 --Item 11 // FISCAL YEAR 2021 (FY21) MID-YEAR BUDGET (OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED)

Hi, my name is Carmina Calderon and I am a member of ACT-LA. I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and I am now hearing my membership say they're foregoing riding the bus if it's too crowded or experiencing longer wait times while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

-Carmina Calderon

From: Zully Juarez <zully@mobilityjustice.org>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:32:22 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment - Metro BOar Item 11 // Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Mid-Year Bus Budget (OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED)

My comments pertain to the January 28th Metro Board Meeting Agenda Items #11 (Midyear Budget) and #54 (Getting Better Loans).

Hi, my name is Zully Juarez and I am a member of People for Mobility Justice. I am a South East LA resident and active transportation health advocate and I have first hand seen the impacts of bus service cuts in my community. Many older Latinx working-class residents rely on bus services as their only source of transportation to connect them to their jobs in Downtown Los Angeles. Since the start of the pandemic, I have seen crowded buses with no social distancing for riders. Many of whom are essential workers and caretakers living with their families. This is both an urgent and preventable public health matter for bus riders and their families.

For these reasons, I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

Thank you.

--

Zully Juarez, MURP

From: Megan Lutz <producermegan@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:18:07 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hello all,

I'm writing to oppose Item #11 as currently written. Bus service has been cut by 20% for far too long during this pandemic, but bus service workers and riders at risk every day. Especially with the new, more-infectious strain of COVID circulating around the hotspot of Los Angeles, it is unacceptable and irresponsible to maintain these cuts. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Megan Lutz
Los Angeles
90026

From: Lena Williams <lana@mobilityjustice.org>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:16:55 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: **Comments pertaining to 1/28/2021 Metro Board Meeting Agenda Items #11 (Midyear Budget) and #54 (Getting Better Loans)**

Hi, my name is Lena Williams and I am a mobility justice advocate. I bike as my primary form of transportation, using metro semi-often as well. I usually ride over to the train (blue line is closest) b/c the busses are infrequent, and not as reliable as the rail service. I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and I am now skipping riding the buses, b/c they are over crowded, or I end up waiting at the crowded stops for extended periods of time; while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

My name is Lena Williams and I am a mobility justice advocate. I strongly support Item 54.

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

--

Lena Williams

Pronouns: any

Bike Education Manager

[People for Mobility Justice](#)

From: Alfonso Directo <adirecto@allianceforcommunitytransit.org>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:16:47 PM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Subject: **Item 11: FY21 Mid-year Budget - OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Dear Metro Board of Directors,

I am writing to oppose Item #11 - Mid-year Budget Adjustment - unless amended to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours. Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy at a time when COVID is surging, mutating and threatening to outsmart our public health tactics.

ACT-LA members are riding Metro bus lines, including Lines 206, 45 and 48 for their daily trips and many don't have other transportation options. They are facing overcrowded buses while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. This common occurrence is placing them, fellow riders, and transit operators at risk of becoming infected with COVID.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and ACT-LA members and countless other Angelenos are left no choice but to ride crowded buses and/or wait long periods of time for buses amid the most grim months of this pandemic. LA County deserves a dependable public transportation system that always allows riders to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

Thank you,
Alfonso

--

Alfonso Directo Jr., PE (he/him)

Advocacy Manager | Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles

cell: (949) 400-0818

website: www.allianceforcommunitytransit.org

From: Charlie Carnow <ccarnow@unitehere11.org>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:09:40 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Workers Say Oppose Item #11, Restore Our Bus Service

Honorable Metro Board Members and Staff,

On behalf of UNITE HERE Local 11, a union of over 30,000 members in food service and hospitality we call on the Metro Board to oppose item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. Our members rely on public transportation to access their jobs, shop for basic necessities and get around. Because of the cuts to bus service they are exposed to crowded buses that increase risk of infection due to covid19. The unexpected sales tax revenue should be used to undo the dangerous cuts to bus service.

Thank you
Charlie Carnow
Research Analyst, Unite Here Local 11

From: Michael Siegel <michael.siegel.11@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:08:45 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly oppose Item #11 as currently written. A 20% cut in bus service is unconscionable. People who need it are now gonna be overcrowded, gonna have to wait forever, and making the service almost unusable forcing more people into cars, the exact opposite of what a good transit system should do.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Michael Siegel
Los Angeles
90065

From: Lyndsey Nolan <lqnolan@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 4:05:46 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Public comment for 1/28/21 Board Meeting: Items 11 and 54

Hello! Please see my comments below for tomorrow's Board meeting. Thank you!!

Item 11 // FY21 MID-YEAR BUDGET (OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED)

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy at a time when COVID is surging, mutating and threatening to outsmart our public health tactics. My name is Lyndsey Nolan and I do not own a car and rely primarily on transit, walking, and biking to get around.

I oppose Item #11 unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and I have ridden multiple crowded buses and have had to wait long periods of time for buses while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

We deserve high quality public transportation. LA residents pay for most of Metro's budget through sales taxes that are resulting in \$300 million more revenue than Metro previously estimated last fall. LA transit should be dependable. LA transit riders, who are majority very low-income people of color, youth and seniors, deserve a public transportation system they can always depend on for safe rides during and after this pandemic.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

Item 54 // CREATION OF FEDERAL RESERVE STATE & LOCAL AGENCY LENDING FACILITY (SUPPORT)

My name is Lyndsey Nolan and I am transit dependent. I strongly support Item 54.

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time.

--

Lyndsey Q. Nolan, MPH

She/Her

P: 310.709.5518

L: [linkedin.com/in/lyndseygnolan](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lyndseygnolan)

From: Clara Karger <ckarger@ccala.org>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:59:37 PM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov,
tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org,
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com,
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org,
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, Marie Rumsey <mrumsey@ccala.org>,
Michael Shilstone <mshilstone@ccala.org>
Subject: CCA Comments - Item 11 Metro BOD

Dear Chair Garcetti, Directors and Mr. Washington,

We've seen what a world-class bus system could look like as proposed by the NextGen Bus Plan and believe that our bus network is a critical part of our region's transportation system. **With this in mind, we oppose item 11 as written as the mid-year budget adjustment does not plan for bus service increases to pre-pandemic levels nor does it support the NextGen Bus Plan priorities of fast, frequent and reliable service.** We respectfully request that you prioritize our bus network and increase service to preserve public health for current riders and in preparation of our region's recovery from the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.



Clara Karger

Director of Public Affairs
213.418.1672 | ckarger@ccala.org | ccala.org
626 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 850, Los Angeles, CA 90017



[DTLA Insights](#) | [Member Development Projects](#)

From: Guadalupe Huerta <huerta.ucla@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:57:08 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: January 28th Metro Board Meeting Agenda Items #11 (Midyear Budget)

Hello,

My name is Lupita Huerta and I am an LA County resident and transit rider. I am writing in to oppose **Item #11:** Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro's 20% service cuts from the fall have negatively impacted bus riders who rely on bus service and cannot properly socially distance on their rides. COVID has ravaged the black and brown community in Los Angeles; the same community that disproportionately rides buses due to lack of vehicle ownership, and reliance on essential worker positions. Metro should be doing everything in its power to protect essential workers who ride and drive buses, and by continually undercutting bus service, Metro will continue to hurt LA's most vulnerable populations and people of color.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

From: Samantha Steinhauser <samantha.l.mcbride@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:56:56 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I strongly oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice. To give people NO option between working and an increased likelihood to COVID exposure, and certain unemployment is morally reprehensible. Not all Angelenos have cars, nor should they have to rely on such an expense to live and work. We have the money!

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Samantha McBride
Los Angeles, CA 90042

From: Elise Kalfayan <elisek@sunroomdesk.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:56:22 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, Ara Najarian <anajarian@glendaleca.gov>, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11 for 1-28-21 meeting

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. While I support the increase in staffing for the Equity and Customer Experience departments in Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, Metro should **increase bus service** and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. Please prioritize federal COVID relief funds to hire more transit operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Elise Kalfayan
Glendale, CA

From: Samantha Steinhauser <samantha.l.mcbride@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:56:05 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I strongly oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice. To give people NO option between working and an increased likelihood to COVID exposure, and certain unemployment is morally reprehensible. Not all Angelenos have cars, nor should they have to rely on such an expense to live and work. We have the money!

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Samantha McBride
Los Angeles, 90042

From: Brady Collins <brady@kiwa.org>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:55:35 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment - January 28th Metro Board Meeting, Items #11 and #54

Dear Metro Board,

My name is Brady Collins and I'm with the Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA). Since 1992 KIWA has organized low-wage immigrant workers in Los Angeles, and empowered them to make Los Angeles a more equitable place. For low-wage workers in LA, access to public transportation is directly tied to their ability to earn an income and feed their families. During the pandemic we've heard countless stories from our members about their inability to catch a bus on time, or being unable to enter a bus because it is completely packed and they are therefore unable to maintain social distance.

For these reasons I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and as a result workers in LA--even those deemed essential--are struggling to get to work safely. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

Thank you,

Brady

--

Brady Collins
Policy Analyst
KIWA
1053 S. New Hampshire Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90006
kiwa.org | [fb](#)



From: Samantha Steinhauser <samantha.l.mcbride@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:55:04 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I strongly oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice. To give people NO option between working and an increased likelihood to COVID exposure, and certain unemployment is morally reprehensible. Not all Angelenos have cars, nor should they have to rely on such an expense to live and work. We have the money!

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Name

City

Zip Code

From: Gloria Ramirez <gloriaer71@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:48:54 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Gloria Ramirez
North Hollywood 91602
415 260 9944

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kevin Cassidy <kcassp@gmail.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:48:25 PM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Subject: Restore Metro Bus Service

I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

From: Emily Pham <emilypham36@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:47:28 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

Hello, my name is Emily Pham, and I oppose Item #11 as currently written unless bus service is increased. The bus service cuts have especially been harmful to the Black and brown communities who rely on public transit. Given that this service cut is not being rectified upon Metro receiving \$300M in sales taxes, during a pandemic that disproportionately puts Black and brown communities at risk, is a racial and public health injustice.

I urge the Metro Board to revise Item #11 to increase bus service and ensure the safety of riders and bus reliability. The decrease in bus service since March 2020 further risks the health of our essential workers, particularly those of color. This restoration of bus service to pre-COVID service levels is critical to support plans for students to return to schools and businesses to return to full swing as the vaccine rollout is underway.

Sincerely,

--

Emily Pham

University of California, Los Angeles - Class of 2021

B.S. Psychobiology, B.A. Asian American Studies

(626) 646-8119

emilypham36@gmail.com

From: Kate Grodd <kate.grodd@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:46:40 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service.

Kate Grodd
Los Feliz
90027

From: Jessica Craven <jescny@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:44:30 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Metro Board,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Jessica Craven
Los Angeles, CA 90065

From: Danielle Dirksen <ddirksen@usc.edu>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:40:02 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Opposition to Metro Board Item #11 and Support for Item #54

Dear Michele Jackson,

I am writing to you today to **strongly oppose LA Metro's item 11**, the mid-year budget adjustment, *unless* this adjustment is amended to increase service levels to pre-COVID frequencies (thus undoing the 20% service cuts that occurred in 2020). As a proponent of public transit and as a future bus operator and transit planner, I am increasingly frustrated with and disappointed in Metro's discommitment to essential workers and low income communities of color.

If Metro is truly dedicated to actively being anti-racist by supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, and to delaying the spread of COVID-19, then the agency's Board must do more than verbally support said causes. A budgetary adjustment that favors Metro's riders, who are primarily low income, non-white, and essential workers, is appropriate and necessary.

I am also writing to **strongly support item 54**, creating a state and local lending facility. As People for Mobility Justice phrased it, "Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

[We] support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time."

Thank you for your time and I hope that the Board chooses to advocate for its riders and its operators, without either of which there would be no LA Metro.

Respectfully,

Danielle Dirksen

From: Reed Alvarado <reedalvarado@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:39:27 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Metro Staff and Board,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Reed Alvarado

Instagram: [@reed.getting.there](https://www.instagram.com/reed.getting.there)

Twitter: [Getting_there](https://twitter.com/Getting_there)

[973.652.1776](tel:973.652.1776)

From: Erik Griswold <erik.griswold@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:36:25 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Comment on Item 11 for the January 28th, 2021 meeting of the Metro Board

Dear Metro Board of Directors:

If the Metro-funded agency Foothill Transit can operate 98% of its pre-COVID bus operations at present, so can Los Angeles Metro. Especially now that \$300 Million in tax revenue thought to be "lost" has been determined to be available.

Take care of your basic responsibilities,

Erik Griswold

Claremont, California

--

It is normal for me to take 2 days to read my emails and 2 more days to reflect on the matter and respond calmly.

The culture of immediacy and the constant fragmentation of time are not very compatible with the kind of life I lead.

From: Rodney Polk <jamalpolk@icloud.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:33:21 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

To Whom It May Concern,

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now. There's no reason not to increase bus service. 5% of Metro's ridership pre-covid comes from bus and now with covid bus ridership is even more important. Buses are over crowded and you are unable to social distance.

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Jamal P
Los Angeles, CA
90032

From: "Marie Pavlich (she/her)" <mariepavlich@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:32:37 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hello,

I am submitting this comment in opposition on item Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day. Especially as many of these riders are essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Thank you for your time.

Marie Pavlich
91203
Glendale

From: James Rogers <jdrogers@me.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:28:24 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to oppose Item #11 as currently proposed. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers and those coming from communities heavily impacted by the on-going pandemic. Crowded public transport is both a universal health emergency and a demonstrable issue of racial disparity and injustice.

Metro must revise the mid-year budget to increase bus services and ensure buses are not overcrowded. Our community needs a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is clearly in line with supporting Metro's tactical and strategic service goals. Metro must prioritize the federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus services immediately.

It is clear that the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

James Rogers
Los Angeles
90045

From: "Jimenez gonzalez, Gemma" <gemma.jimenezgonzalez.986@my.csun.edu>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:25:44 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov,
tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov,
FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov,
mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov,
tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

I am a resident of North Hollywood. My mother and I rely heavily on public transportation and the current pandemic and bus hours shift have negatively impacted us and our community.

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. While I support the increase in staffing for the Equity and Customer Experience departments in Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, we need Metro to revise the report to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. And lastly, we need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire more transit operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Thank You
Gemma JG.

From: Niall Huffman <nhuffman28@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:22:33 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: **Opposition to Item 11 on Metro Board Agenda 1/28/21**

Dear Metro Directors:

As a resident of Pasadena who works in Downtown Los Angeles, I write to oppose Metro staff's recommendation on Item 11 on the agenda for the January 28, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. Please direct staff to prepare a mid-year budget plan that increases bus service as much as possible toward the pre-COVID level of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Bus service has suffered greatly during the pandemic following reductions made over the course of 2020. While increasing staffing for equity and customer experience is a worthy use of funds, the Board's first priority in the mid-year budget adjustment must be to restore transit service, enabling essential workers to get to their jobs and allowing for safe social distancing on board.

The County's decision this week to restore outdoor dining and indoor personal services means that many people will be returning to work at the most dangerous time of the pandemic, when cases and deaths are at or near all-time highs. Metro owes it to these workers to do everything it can to keep them safe. Please use the extra \$300 million to reverse the 2020 service cuts. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Niall Huffman

Pasadena, CA 91106

nhuffman28@gmail.com

From: Jonathan Raspa <jmrspa@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:21:29 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment - 1/27/21 Metro Board Meeting Agenda Item #11

Good afternoon Metro Board members,

I would like to call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. With Governor Newsom's announcements on re-opening businesses and schools, even more people will need to get to work and school. These essential workers rely on the bus as a lifeline and Black, Indigenous and people of color who ride the bus are also being impacted by this pandemic at higher rates than any other population. The windfall sales tax revenue and stimulus money must benefit these riders first and call on the Metro Board to hire more bus drivers, fund more buses and create reliable and safe bus service for all.

Thank you,
Jonathan Raspa
jmrspa@gmail.com

From: Jonathan Raspa <jmrspa@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:21:29 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment - 1/27/21 Metro Board Meeting Agenda Item #11

Good afternoon Metro Board members,

I would like to call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. With Governor Newsom's announcements on re-opening businesses and schools, even more people will need to get to work and school. These essential workers rely on the bus as a lifeline and Black, Indigenous and people of color who ride the bus are also being impacted by this pandemic at higher rates than any other population. The windfall sales tax revenue and stimulus money must benefit these riders first and call on the Metro Board to hire more bus drivers, fund more buses and create reliable and safe bus service for all.

Thank you,
Jonathan Raspa
jmrspa@gmail.com

From: Erika Thi Patterson <erika@acrecampaigns.org>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:17:54 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: CREATION OF Item 54: FEDERAL RESERVE STATE & LOCAL AGENCY LENDING FACILITY (SUPPORT)

Hello,

My name is Erika Thi Patterson and I am a Campaign Director with the Action Center on Race and the Economy. I'm reaching out to share that I strongly support Item 54.

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for community priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit and other programs to support struggling transit riders as we continue to fight the pandemic and subsequent economic crisis. Our communities can't afford austerity in the face of these challenges - we need to reclaim the tax dollars Wall Street firms are siphoning off and reinvest that money back into a just recovery. Thank you.

Best regards,

--

Erika Thi Patterson

[Bargaining for the Common Good](#) Campaign Director | she/her

Campaign Director - Climate and Environmental Justice

[Action Center on Race and the Economy \(ACRE\)](#) + [ACRE Institute](#)

C: 707.688.4641 | West Coast Time Zone



On native Tongva land.

From: Patrick Lewis <patrickjameslewis89@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:17:28 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hi there!

This is important. I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Patrick Lewis
Los Angeles
90029

From: Stephanie Reichert <stephreichert@gmail.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:13:13 PM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Subject: January 28th Metro Board Meeting Agenda Items #11

Hi,

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy at a time when COVID is surging, mutating and threatening to outsmart our public health tactics.

Hi, my name is Stephanie Reichert and I ride a combination of bus lines 4, 704, 217, and 780 to get to and from work every week. I do not own a car, so the bus is my only mode of transportation. I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and I am now riding crowded buses and forced to wait long periods of time for buses while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

Thank you,

Stephanie Reichert

From: Andrew Heinzman <saheinzman@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:13:12 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

To whom it may concern,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and a poor business decision. As Angelenos begin to transition back to normalcy we need a fully operational bus system. A cut to service makes wait times longer and will drive people away from using Metro as they decide if and how to go back to work in person.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Andrew Heinzman
Los Angeles
90025

From: Chloe Cipolla <chloecipolla@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:05:13 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Subject: Public Comment #11

I am a former daily Metro user (Red Line) who thankfully has been granted the ability to work from home. But not all users have this privilege, and the Metro has a right to ensure the safety of those who are currently most vulnerable to Covid.

We call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. In order to allow for safe social distancing on transit vehicles during the COVID pandemic, bus riders should have 3x as much personal space. Metro's current service does not allow for this and instead prevents riders from being able to social distance, results in overcrowded buses, and negatively impacts the health of low-income riders of color who do not have other forms of transportation. Our current lack of bus service cuts put essential workers and communities' health at risk. Metro should be providing more service, not less.

I am disappointed that the county is not prioritizing helping those who need help the most. Please reconsider.

Thanks,
Chloe

From: Brent Bovenzi <brent.bovenzi@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:04:30 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Metro Board Members,

As a regular bus-rider I urge you to oppose Item #11 as currently written. We cannot let these bus service cuts become the new normal level of service. Today, people need uncrowded buses in order to travel safely. Tomorrow, we need to become a more sustainable and equitable city. The unexpected sales tax funds and federal bailout money means we can afford this. Funding more bus service is the best possible way for LA Metro to improve the lives of all Angelons.

Thank you,

Brent Bovenzi
Venice
90291

From: Claire McCluskey <csmccluskey10@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 3:04:19 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

We call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. Throughout the year, Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities and frontline workers have been exposed to the worst of the COVID pandemic. These communities are also most likely to bear the brunt of funding cuts and service reductions. We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded and unreliable. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals and adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service level of at least 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Thank you,
Claire McCluskey

From: Heather McCallum <himccallum@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:57:54 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

To whom it may concern!

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Heather McCallum
Glendale
91205

From: Yasmine-Imani McMorrin <votemcmorrin@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:57:03 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Good Afternoon Metro Directors:

My name Yasmine-Imani McMorrin and I currently serve on Culver City Council. My family and I are public transit riders and I believe deeply in investing in public transportation.

I wanted to ensure to reach out to you today as I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

I appreciate your consideration and I encourage you to prioritize the health of our neighbors and community in your decision.

Sincerely,
Yasmine-Imani McMorrin
Culver City
90230

From: Dylan Gasperik <dgasperik@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:54:56 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment on Item #11: Restore Bus Service

I join advocates including Invest in Place and the ACT-LA coalition in calling on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. When Metro's Board of Directors approved service cuts as part of its 2021 budget last September, they also approved motion 10.1 calling for ongoing staff reports on how the agency could get back to its pre-pandemic baseline. That motion stated plainly: "maintaining [the service cuts] for the remainder of the fiscal year is *not acceptable* for riders nor is it consistent with the agency's strategic priorities." (emphasis mine). But, despite this clear direction, staff have come back with a recommendation that defies the wishes of the Board and the riding public. We need you to reject these recommendations and start us down the path today of restoring bus service.

Our frontline workers rely on public transit to keep our economy and our healthcare system functioning at a baseline level. We are relying on you to provide reliable service, given that the funding is available.

Respectfully,

Dylan Gasperik
Los Angeles, 90032

From: Lisa Beebe <lisabeebe@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:52:43 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

I live in Los Angeles and take public transportation regularly. I urge you to increase bus service.

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. As the pandemic continues, maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service is dangerous and disrespectful to community members who use public transportation, many of whom are essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

Please support the local community by revising the mid-year budget to increase bus service.

Thank you,
Lisa Beebe
Studio City (91602)

From: Aaron Stein-Chester <stein.chester@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:51:08 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, Supervisor Hilda Solis <firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov>, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hi,

I'm writing to oppose Item #11 in its current form. \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit is more than enough money to restore transit service and protect both riders and operators. Not only is this the right thing to do for Metro's core ridership who are already among the most vulnerable essential workers, but it's an important COVID containment strategy. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders and operators at risk every day.

It's vital that Metro revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. I leave near Vermont / Santa Monica Blvd., the intersection of two of the city's busiest bus routes, and I see how crowded the stops are. This isn't safe!

We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Aaron Stein-Chester
Los Angeles
90029

From: Jessica Meaney <jessica@investinginplace.org>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:48:36 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, Jacqueline Dupont-Walker <jdupontw@aol.com>, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment item 11

Dear Metro Board of Directors,

We ask on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless transit service is increased.

With Governor Newsom's announcements on re-opening businesses and schools, even more people will need to get to work and school. These essential workers rely on the bus as a lifeline and Black, Indigenous and people of color who ride the bus are also being impacted by this pandemic at higher rates than any other population. The windfall sales tax revenue and stimulus money must benefit these riders first and we are asking the Metro Board to hire more bus drivers, fund more buses and create reliable and safe bus service for all.

From: Luke Elderkin <luke.j.elderkin@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:50:23 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Good afternoon,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Luke Elderkin
Los Angeles
90066

From: carolyn <phoenix_la_323@yahoo.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:47:14 PM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Subject: Restoration of Metro Bus Service

Hello,

Hi, my name is Carolyn Park, and I am a member of Progressive Asian Network for Action, DSA-LA and Sunrise Movement Los Angeles. I have no car and rely on public transportation.

Item 11

// FISCAL YEAR 2021 (FY21) MID-YEAR BUDGET (OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED)

I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy at a time when COVID is surging, mutating and threatening to outsmart our public health tactics. Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and I am now skipping buses because they're crowded or forced to wait long periods of time for buses while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

Additional talking points:

- **Bus service cuts harm transit riders' health & safety.** In order to allow for safe social distancing on transit vehicles during the COVID pandemic, bus riders should have 3x as much personal space. Metro Directors should oppose Metro's midyear budget adjustment unless Metro staff increases bus service to achieve required physical distancing on every bus run. Right now, the mid-year budget adjustment overlooks the individual and public health hazard of overcrowded buses that many low income riders of color are encountering right now. Sustained bus service cuts since last fall keep transit riders, including essential workers, at risk of COVID infection.
- **Transit Justice is racial & economic justice.** Public transit is the community infrastructure that connects us to jobs, school, healthcare and family. Successive investment to increase bus service, install bus infrastructure, and realize a fare-free system are key to racial and economic justice for low-income Black, Latinx, immigrant and youth who overwhelmingly make up Metro's ridership and depend on Metro for rides that do not compromise their health.
- **We deserve high quality public transportation.** LA residents pay for most of Metro's budget through sales taxes that are resulting in \$300 million more revenue than Metro previously estimated last fall. LA transit should be dependable. LA transit riders, who are majority very low-income people of color, youth and seniors, deserve a public transportation system they can always depend on for safe rides during and after this pandemic.
- **Bus service improvements are long overdue.** Over 75% of transit riders in LA use the bus system. Dependable bus service is overdue and critical to restore transit ridership. Metro must invest in bus service reliability and creating a high quality transit system that primarily serves low-income Angelenos of color without access to cars.

Item 54

// CREATION OF FEDERAL RESERVE STATE & LOCAL AGENCY LENDING FACILITY (SUPPORT)

I strongly support Item 54.

Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

Carolyn Park
AD 51 ADEM Candidate

From: Alex Crow <awcrow86@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:45:59 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org

Subject: Public Comment No. 11

Throughout the year, Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities and frontline workers have been exposed to the worst of the COVID pandemic. These communities are also most likely to bear the brunt of funding cuts and service reductions. We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded and unreliable. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals and adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service level of at least 7.5 million revenue service hours.

I call on you to oppose item 11 as currently written unless substantive changes are made to increase services. Please do right by your constituents - after all, it is your duty as elected officials.

Alex Crow

From: Nick Burns <nkburns3@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:44:05 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear elected officials,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Sincerely,

Nick Burns

1740 S Westgate Ave. Unit H

Los Angeles, CA 90025

From: Paraska Tolan <paraskat@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:42:12 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Hello,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now.

Paraska Tolan-Szkilnik, PhD.

Los Angeles

90012

From: Tristan Friedberg Rodman <tristanrodman@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:39:38 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, jdupontw@aol.com, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. While I support the increase in staffing for the Equity and Customer Experience departments in Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, we need Metro to revise the report to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. And lastly, we need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire more transit operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

--

tristan friedberg rodman
sound + story in los angeles, ca
tristanfriedbergrodman.com

From: Camille Suarez <camillesrz@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:37:29 PM PST

To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, mayor@cityofinglewood.org, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Metro Board Members,

My name is Dr. Camille Suárez, and I am an assistant professor of History at Cal State LA. I am a Metro user who does not own a car. I chose to rely on public transit because it is better for our environment and our cities.

I oppose Item #11 as written. Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice. What the people of Los Angeles need and what our essential workers need are more buses, not cuts in service.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. This is crucial given that Los Angeles is the center of the US Covid pandemic. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now. We need more buses!

Thank you for your time,

Dr. Camille Suárez
Los Angeles
90012

From: Sarah Eggers <egggers.sh@gmail.com>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 2:36:08 PM PST
To: "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>
Cc: sheila@bos.lacounty.gov
Subject: public comment for Jan 28 mtg/Agenda #11 and #54

Dear Metro Board,

I am writing with regard to January 28th Metro Board Meeting Agenda Items #11 (Midyear Budget) and #54 (Getting Better Loans).

Metro's priority must be to restore bus service and keep the people who rely on it safe. As a frequent bus rider in Los Angeles, I know that bus service was already inadequate before the 20% service cuts. To cut service during a pandemic borders on criminal endangerment of the same people we know are already among the most vulnerable to the pandemic in our city.

I will remind you of your own words in the motion passed last year: "maintaining [the service cuts] for the remainder of the fiscal year is not acceptable for riders nor is it consistent with the agency's strategic priorities."

I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

I also support Item 54. Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees.

I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit, and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sarah Eggers, bus rider, Los Angeles

--

Sarah Eggers, LMFT, ATR, MFA
pronouns she/her/hers
450 S. Marengo Ave. Pasadena, CA 91101
(626)720-4335
LMFT#100220

From: Kendall Kaufmann <kendall.kaufmann@gmail.com>

Date: January 27, 2021 at 6:51:08 PM PST

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, sheila@bos.lacounty.gov, kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov, mike.bonin@lacity.org, idupontw@aol.com, tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, anajarian@glendaleca.gov, HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov, firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov, tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov, "Washington, Phillip" <WashingtonP@metro.net>, "Lee, Nadine" <LeeN@metro.net>, "Gallagher, Jim" <GallagherJ@metro.net>, "Forgiarini, Joseph" <ForgiariniJ@metro.net>, "Cheung, Conan" <CHEUNGC@metro.net>, "Tu, Stephen" <TUS@metro.net>, "Jackson, Michele" <JacksonM@metro.net>, "Ahuja, Nalini" <AhujaN@metro.net>, "Soto, Jesse" <SotoJ@metro.net>, "Mills, Donna" <MillsD@metro.net>, "Cylear Dodds, KeAndra" <cyleardoddsk@metro.net>, mayor@cityofinglewood.org

Subject: Metro Needs to Reinvest in Buses

Hi all,

My name is Kendall. Metro is trying to disinvest from buses and I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and I am now avoiding travelling while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. Many people don't have that luxury. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

Public transit is the community infrastructure that connects us to jobs, school, healthcare and family. It's a public service, not a business, and it should be run as such. Successive investment to increase bus service, install bus infrastructure, and realize a fare-free system are key to racial and economic justice for low-income Black, Latinx, immigrant and youth who overwhelmingly make up Metro's ridership and depend on Metro for rides that do not compromise their health.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

Kendall Kaufmann

Civil and Environmental Engineering, B.S.

Minor in Urban and Regional Studies

UCLA 2020

Board Member | North Westwood Neighborhood Council - Transportation & Safety, and
Community Health & Homelessness Committees

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kendallkaufmann/>

Mobile: (650) 518-9044

From: Johnny Schmidt <johnnyschmidt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:16 AM
To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>
Cc: JDUPONTW@AOL.COM; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org; firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; hollyjmitchell@bos.lacounty.gov; kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org; sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us; tony.tavares@dot.ca.gov; Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>
Subject: Public Comment on Item 11

Hi,

As a resident of Los Angeles who believes that providing quality bus service for LA County residents that need it is absolutely the most central part of Metro as an organization, I wanted to leave a public comment about my disappointment with Item 11. **We call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased.** When Metro's Board of Directors approved service cuts as part of its 2021 budget last September, they also approved motion 10.1 calling for ongoing staff reports on how the agency could get back to its pre-pandemic baseline. That motion stated plainly: "maintaining [the service cuts] for the remainder of the fiscal year is not acceptable for riders nor is it consistent with the agency's strategic priorities." But, despite this clear direction, staff have come back with a recommendation that flies in the face of the wishes of the Board and the riding public. We need you, the region's transportation policy makers to reject these recommendations and start us down the path today of restoring bus service.

Thanks,
Johnny Schmidt
--
Johnny Schmidt

From: Aryeh Cohen <aryehcohen@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:04 AM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

To the Metro Board of Supervisors,

We call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased.

Throughout the year, Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities and frontline workers have been exposed to the worst of the COVID pandemic. These communities are also most likely to bear the brunt of funding cuts and service reductions. We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded and unreliable. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals and adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service level of at least 7.5 million revenue service hours.

In order to allow for safe social distancing on transit vehicles during the COVID pandemic, bus riders should have 3x as much personal space. Metro's current service does not allow for this and instead prevents riders from being able to social distance, results in overcrowded buses, and negatively impacts the health of low-income riders of color who do not have other forms of transportation. Our current lack of bus service cuts put essential workers and communities' health at risk. Metro should be providing more service, not less.

Sincerely,
Aryeh Cohen

From: Staci O'Neal-Robinson <onealrobinsonlcsw@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:03 AM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

Good morning,

I am writing to call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. In order to allow for safe social distancing on transit vehicles during the COVID pandemic, bus riders should have 3x as much personal space. Metro's current service does not allow for this and instead prevents riders from being able to social distance, results in overcrowded buses, and negatively impacts the health of low-income riders of color who do not have other forms of transportation. Our current lack of bus service cuts put essential workers and communities' health at risk. Metro should be providing more service, not less.

While I support the increase in staffing for the Equity and Customer Experience departments in Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, we need Metro to revise the report to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. And lastly, we need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire more transit operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Thank you,
Staci O'Neal-Robinson, LCSW

From: Matthew Barkley <matthewrbarkley@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:03 AM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

Metro Board,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. While I support the increase in staffing for the Equity and Customer Experience departments in Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, we need Metro to revise the report to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. And lastly, we need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire more transit operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Sincerely,

Matthew Barkley

From: Nicole Gerron <nicolegerron@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:59 AM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

Good morning,

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. While I support the increase in staffing for the Equity and Customer Experience departments in Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, we need Metro to revise the report to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. And lastly, we need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire more transit operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Best,

Nicole Gerron

From: Aditi N. Shastry <aditi.shastry@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:58 AM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11: Restore Bus Service

Hello,

I call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. In order to allow for safe social distancing on transit vehicles during the COVID pandemic, bus riders should have 3x as much personal space. Metro's current service does not allow for this and instead prevents riders from being able to social distance, results in overcrowded buses, and negatively impacts the health of low-income riders of color who do not have other forms of transportation. Our current lack of bus service cuts put essential workers and communities' health at risk. Metro should be providing more service, not less.

Throughout the year, Black, Indigenous and people of color, as well as frontline workers have been exposed to the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. These communities are also most likely to bear the brunt of funding cuts & service reductions. I sincerely hope to hear from you regarding this manner.

Best,
Aditi Shastry
Los Angeles, 90034

--

Aditi Shastry

From: Max Himelhoch <mhimelho@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:57 AM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment on item #11

To whom it may concern,

My name is Max Himelhoch, a resident in CD12 and a daily transit user. Metro service is my means of transportation in this city.

I am writing to strongly oppose and hope the Metro Board will oppose item #11 unless service is increased. Throughout the year, Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities and frontline workers have been exposed to the worst of the COVID pandemic. These communities are also most likely to bear the brunt of funding cuts and service reductions. In order to allow for safe social distancing on transit vehicles during the COVID pandemic, bus riders should have 3x as much personal space. Metro's current service does not allow for this and instead prevents riders from being able to social distance, results in overcrowded buses and stops as reduced service adds to wait times. It also negatively impacts the health of low-income riders of color who do not have other forms of transportation. Our current lack of bus service cuts put essential workers and communities' health at risk. Metro should be providing more service, not less.

Best,
Max

From: Emily Chapman <emily@chapman-leff.net>

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 10:07 PM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

Metro board:

We call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. When Metro's Board of Directors approved service cuts as part of its 2021 budget last September, they also approved motion 10.1 calling for ongoing staff reports on how the agency could get back to its pre-pandemic baseline.

That motion stated plainly: "maintaining [the service cuts] for the remainder of the fiscal year is not acceptable for riders nor is it consistent with the agency's strategic priorities." But, despite this clear direction, staff have come back with a recommendation that flies in the face of the wishes of the Board and the riding public.

We need you, the region's transportation policy makers to reject these recommendations and start us down the path today of restoring bus service.

I'm an Angeleno and a transit user and these choices don't help Metro employees or riders.

Emily Chapman

[@eachapm](https://twitter.com/eachapm)

<http://emchap.com>

From: Arielle Bernstein <missarielleashleybee@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 9:38 PM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

To Whom It May Concern:

I, along with countless Angelinos, am calling on call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. Throughout the year, Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities and frontline workers have been exposed to the worst of the COVID pandemic. These communities are also most likely to bear the brunt of funding cuts and service reductions. We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded and unreliable. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals and adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service level of at least 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Kindly, respect the essential workers that risk their lives for all of us and do the obviously right thing.

Ms. Arielle A. Bernstein

-----Original Message-----

From: Pilar Reynaldo <maripilim@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 9:17 PM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor@cityofinglewood.org;

kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mike.bonin@lacity.org; idupontw@aol.com;

tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;

anajarian@glendaleca.gov; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov; firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov;

Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

To all concerned:

I oppose Item #11 as currently written. A close look must be taken at the bus lines to determine which lines have been underperforming for years and which need an increase in service. The 256 from York/AVE 64 into Old town has been empty for years. Here is an example of a line which can withstand a 20% Cut. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by COVID. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282.2M in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940M federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service where needed.

Investing in safer streets is also a worth while investment into infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Pilar Reynaldo
Los Angeles
90042

From: Timothy Hayes <timothy.hayes@groundgamela.org>

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 8:57 PM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment Item #11

I am calling on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. With Governor Newsom's announcements on re-opening businesses and schools, even more people will need to get to work and school. These essential workers rely on the bus as a lifeline and Black, Indigenous and people of color who ride the bus are also being impacted by this pandemic at higher rates than any other population. The windfall sales tax revenue and stimulus money must benefit these riders first and call on the Metro Board to hire more bus drivers, fund more buses and create reliable and safe bus service for all.

Public transit, especially bus service, is a key part of equity and social justice in Los Angeles. Cutting bus service is a direct attack on working Angelenos. As we build a greener LA it is imperative that the Metro Board redouble the commitment to accessible bus service in every neighborhood.

--

Timothy Hayes
Organizer
Ground Game LA

From: Ben Creed <creed.ben@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 8:25 PM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor@cityofinglewood.org; kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mike.bonin@lacity.org; jdupontw@aol.com; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov; firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>

Subject: Public Comment Item 11

Dear Metro Board,

I urge you to oppose Item #11 as currently written. Maintaining Metro's 20% cut in bus service puts riders at risk every day, many of them essential workers coming from communities most impacted by Covid. Crowded buses are both a public health emergency and an act of racial injustice.

We need Metro to revise the mid-year budget to increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. We need Metro to prioritize the significant federal Covid relief funds to hire union operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

Between the additional \$282 million in unexpected sales tax funds and the \$940 million federal bailout for LA County transit, we can afford to increase bus service now. In fact, we can't afford not to.

Thank you for your service to all members of the community.

Sincerely,

Ben Creed
Valley Village, City of Los Angeles, 91607

From: Joceline Suhaimi <jocelinesuhaimi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 7:51 PM
To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>
Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>
Subject: Item 11 FY21 Budget

Hello,

My name is Joceline. I am an Orange County resident and UCLA graduate.

As a student, I relied on Metro buses to get around because I didn't own a car and the purple line didn't go to UCLA yet. I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall. Our essential workers are riding on overcrowded transit while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

Joceline Suhaimi

From: Kendall Kaufmann <kendall.kaufmann@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 6:51 PM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mike.bonin@lacity.org; jdupontw@aol.com; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov; firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; Lee, Nadine <LeeN@metro.net>; Gallagher, Jim <GallagherJ@metro.net>; Forgiarini, Joseph <ForgiariniJ@metro.net>; Cheung, Conan <CHEUNGC@metro.net>; Tu, Stephen <TUS@metro.net>; Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>; Ahuja, Nalini <AhujaN@metro.net>; Soto, Jesse <SotoJ@metro.net>; Mills, Donna <MillsD@metro.net>; Cylear Dodds, KeAndra <cyleardoddsk@metro.net>; mayor@cityofinglewood.org

Subject: Metro Needs to Reinvest in Buses

Hi all,

My name is Kendall. Metro is trying to disinvest from buses and I oppose Item #11: Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment, unless Metro revises the budget to increase bus service to allow for social distancing on all bus trips and reliable service for essential workers and unless Metro adopts a budget plan to return to the Pre-COVID service levels of 7.5 million revenue service hours.

Metro already cut bus service by 20% in the fall and I am now avoiding travelling while COVID cases are surging because of close proximity to infected people. Many people don't have that luxury. We deserve a dependable public transportation system that always allows us to physically distance without waiting extra time for another bus.

Public transit is the community infrastructure that connects us to jobs, school, healthcare and family. It's a public service, not a business, and it should be run as such. Successive investment to increase bus service, install bus infrastructure, and realize a fare-free system are key to racial and economic justice for low-income Black, Latinx, immigrant and youth who overwhelmingly make up Metro's ridership and depend on Metro for rides that do not compromise their health.

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic. Thank you.

Kendall Kaufmann

Civil and Environmental Engineering, B.S.

Minor in Urban and Regional Studies

UCLA 2020Board Member | North Westwood Neighborhood Council - Transportation & Safety, and Community Health & Homelessness Committees

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kendallkaufmann/>

Mobile: (650) 518-9044

From: Dan White <danwhite503@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:54 AM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

Dear Board Secretary and Metro Board Members,

I am writing you all to request that the Metro Board oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. When Metro's Board of Directors irresponsibly approved service cuts as part of its 2021 budget last September, they also approved motion 10.1 calling for ongoing staff reports on how the agency could (and must) get back to its pre-pandemic baseline. That motion stated plainly: "maintaining [the service cuts] for the remainder of the fiscal year is not acceptable for riders nor is it consistent with the agency's strategic priorities." But, despite this clear direction, staff have come back with a recommendation that flies in the face of the wishes of the Board and the riding public. We need you, the region's transportation policy makers to reject these recommendations and start us down the path today of restoring bus service. As a frequent user of Metro during the pandemic, I can speak to the substandard service and overcrowding that so many of my fellow Angelenos experience daily. I would challenge you to get out of your cars and actually utilize the service that you are actively sabotaging through continued mismanagement of our resources and investment dollars (ie micro-transit, roadway and freeway expansion, etc). You may actually start to empathize with those constituents who are reliant on Metro for their livelihood and the countless others who choose Metro in pursuit of a more sustainable and equitable future for our children.

Respectfully,

Daniel White

From: Daniel Chun <daniel.chun@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:59 AM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Subject: Metro budget

Hello! My comments pertain to the January 28th Metro Board Meeting Agenda Items #11 (Midyear Budget) and #54 (Getting Better Loans).

I am urging Directors to oppose Metro's mid-year budget adjustment, unless amended with the language proposed by Board members Garcetti, Bonin, Solis, Garcia and Kuehl. Please invest in bus service so riders can always physically distance during the COVID pandemic.

I strongly support Item 54. Metro's top priority must be to keep LA transit riders and operators healthy. Metro needs to also work for an equitable economic recovery, which includes saving public money that would otherwise go to banks and bondholders as interest and fees. I support this motion to save our budget for priorities like improved bus service, fare free transit and other programs to support struggling transit riders during this difficult time. Thank you.

Thank you very much!

From: Sachin Medhekar <sachin.epnc@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:59 AM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

I strongly oppose Item #11 as currently written. While increasing staffing for the Equity and Customer Experience departments in Metro's proposed mid-year budget adjustment is important, it's also critical that Metro revise the report to *increase bus service and ensure buses are not overcrowded*. We need a plan from staff that does not ignore motion 10.1 from Metro Directors and is in line with supporting Metro's strategic service goals. And lastly, we need Metro to prioritize the significant federal COVID relief funds to hire more transit operators and put in place a plan to increase bus service immediately.

From: Tom Ceraulo <tceraulo@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:51 AM

To: Jackson, Michele <JacksonM@metro.net>

Cc: Washington, Phillip <WashingtonP@metro.net>; HollyJMitchell@bos.lacounty.gov;
Tony.Tavares@dot.ca.gov; anajarian@glendaleca.gov; councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org;
firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; jdupontw@aol.com;
kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov; mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; mike.bonin@lacity.org;
sheila@bos.lacounty.gov; tim_sandoval@ci.pomona.ca.us

Subject: Public Comment #11

Good morning.

I'm writing to call on the Metro Board to oppose Item #11 as currently written unless service is increased. In order to allow for safe social distancing on transit vehicles during the COVID pandemic, bus riders should have 3 times as much personal space. Metro's current service does not allow for this and instead prevents riders from being able to social distance, results in overcrowded buses, and negatively impacts the health of low-income riders of color who do not have other forms of transportation. Our current lack of bus service cuts put essential workers and communities' health at risk. Metro should be providing more service, not less.

Thank you.

Tom Ceraulo

Resident of CD13