



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

January 31, 2023

Los Angeles Metro Board of Directors
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Expanding Los Angeles Metro's Transit Ambassador Pilot Program and Shelter Capacity

Dear Chair Najarian and Board Members,

On January 10, 2023, the City of Long Beach declared an emergency on homelessness. As part of our efforts to alleviate homelessness in the region, we request that LA Metro expand its Transit Ambassador Pilot Program and support the development of a localized emergency shelter for passengers deboarding the train at the end of line, providing additional outreach and connection to services for Metro riders on the A Line.

Last year, Long Beach requested LA Metro evaluate its end of line policy requiring passengers to deboard when trains are taken out of service for cleaning, and we appreciate your leadership to identify additional funding, services, shelter, and other solutions to address the regional challenge of homelessness.

As part of the City's contract with LA Metro, the Long Beach Police Department deploys two Quality of Life officers focused on connecting people experiencing homelessness to social services. The City is exploring the feasibility of changing the schedules of our Quality of Life officers to provide additional resources at the end of the A Line service each day. The City also recently expanded the Restorative Engagement to Achieve Collective Health (REACH) team to help connect the unhoused population to critical services such as shelter and mental healthcare.

Expanding LA Metro's Transit Ambassador Pilot Program and overnight shelter capacity and access to homeless services at the end of line will help strengthen the City's local efforts to provide resources for A Line passengers. While the ambassador program is currently only available for limited hours, we request that ambassadors be deployed in Long Beach on the A Line throughout the time of service. Furthermore, having overnight shelter capacity for passengers to sleep and access services is vital to ensure passengers connect with the local resources they need.

Thank you for your consideration to expand the Transit Ambassador Pilot Program and provide shelter capacity at the end of line. If you have any questions about our request, please contact Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government Affairs, at tyler.curley@longbeach.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager, City of Long Beach
Stephanie Wiggins, CEO
Gina Osborn, Chief Safety Officer