

November 18, 2021

The Honorable Hilda Solis, Chair
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: SBCCOG SUPPORT FOR METRO STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO ALLOCATE \$75.2 MILLION NEEDED TO FUND
CONTINUED LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES ON METRO'S TRANSIT SYSTEM

Dear Chair Solis,

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) respectfully requests the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors to authorize the allocation of the \$75.2 million needed to fund continuing law enforcement services on Metro's transit system as the agency re-imagines an excellent customer experience and its reliance on perceived and real system security and safety to grow transit ridership.

Recent Metro customer experience surveys have highlighted that many Metro passengers and employees support greater law enforcement presence on the transit system due to significant concerns regarding operator and rider personal safety. For that reason alone, the SBCCOG does not support Metro's Public Safety Advisory Council's recommendation to end the current law enforcement contracts with the Los Angeles County Sheriff, LAPD, and Long Beach PD by the end of December.

The Metro staff recommendation begins a complex process to improve the experience of customers and operators using an appropriate mix of law enforcement, security and customer experience personnel aboard Metro buses and trains. The initiative redirects \$1.6 million of Metro's security and safety budget to the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to provide mental health outreach services on the Metro system. The initiative also removes fare collection enforcement from the law enforcement team's duties, and seeks protocols for Metro to access body-worn camera footages. Policy modifications, such as those related to training, screening, accountability, and transparency are also recommended for Metro's contracted and in-house non-law enforcement security services.

Failure to approve the staff recommendations at the December 2021 Metro Board meeting would result in the termination of all Metro law enforcement services beginning January 1, 2022. This would lead to passengers and employees without law enforcement protection and Metro staff with insufficient time to procure alternative services.

Thank you for considering the perspectives of the SBCCOG Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Drew Boyles
Chair, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Mayor, City of El Segundo