



July, 13 2021

DRAFT

[BPW-2021-0472](#)

Re: Tree Removal - Metro Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project

To Whom It May Concern:

At our regularly held public meeting on July 13, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to provide the following comments below:

Recently, our board was made aware of Metro's request for the removal of twelve trees as part of the Regional Connector Project by concerned stakeholders and by Joanne D'Antonio, Chair of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance Trees Committee. However, due to technical issues with transmissions of city notices from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to our NC, our board was not able to formally weigh-in and hold hearings on this item prior to the initial June 30th hearing date.

Nevertheless, we would like to thank the Board of Public Works for continuing this item to allow DLANC to provide our position on this item, and for Metro to conduct additional community outreach at our meetings.

The Downtown Los Angeles community is eager and supportive of the connector in creating a more navigable environment to those who live, work, or commute through our community. However, as the urban core of the city, Downtown has struggled in maintaining a robust urban forestry canopy unlike more suburban parts of the city. As such, a loss of mature trees in areas such as Hope and 2nd Streets is a devastating blow to our efforts to make Downtown a more livable environment to our stakeholders.

Therefore, we request a solution from Metro and the Bureau of Street Services that works to save or move at least half of the mature trees. DLANC recognizes the significance of the connector and understands the inevitable loss of trees may occur due the importance of such a project. However, to mitigate any potential losses, we further request that the replacement ratio for any lost trees be increased to 6:1. Should any additional new trees be planted in Downtown as part of tree-replacement, we would request that Metro and Bureau of Street Services seek counsel for DLANC and surrounding area stakeholders for optimal locations.

Sincerely,

TO BE APPROVED AT BOARD MEETING 7/13/2020

Richard Nordin
President
Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

CC: Council District 14
Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division
Community Forestry Advisory Committee
Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance