



July, 13 2021

[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 for 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 for 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 that may occur due to 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. In addition, we further request that Metro extends the maintenance and care of any new trees planted from three years to five years. 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,



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

