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DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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July 12, 2022

Eric Garcetti
Mayor

Kevin De León
Councilmember,
Council District 14

VIA EMAIL

RE: Support for Los Angeles Streetcar

Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember de León:

At our regularly held public meeting on July 12, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) voted to provide the following comments below:

As you are well aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically affected the economy of Downtown Los Angeles. The office, restaurant, and retail markets are still on the road to recovery, as there are still fewer people able to work, shop, and travel due to impacts of the pandemic as well as the current macroeconomic conditions.

We are ready and eager to restore and re-energize DTLA’s economy and ensure that our streets move efficiently in order to bring the most people into the city center and encourage its residents and visitors to travel using transit rather than personal vehicles. Signature investments in projects like the Downtown Los Angeles Streetcar (LA Streetcar) are not only an investment in DTLA’s mobility, they are a positive sign of DTLA’s recovery and zero emission transit momentum. With a projected 2 million riders on the LA Streetcar’s EV system each year, the LA Streetcar is a positive contribution to the EV mobility ecosystem you both champion for Los Angeles.

The LA Streetcar also promotes the goal of reduced car travel in DTLA, as outlined in the DTLA 2040 Community Plan. Partnered with the streetscape designs for Broadway, 7th Street, 11th Street and Figueroa

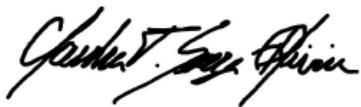
Boulevard, the LA Streetcar will enhance safe walking, biking, and transit connectivity, linking a complete mobility network. Focusing on equity for all travelers, LA Streetcar fares will mirror LADOT DASH fares, currently 15 cents for low-income DASH riders using TAP cards. The LA Streetcar's convenient at-grade access supports people traveling using wheelchairs and walkers and strollers.

The LA Streetcar will have positive effects on restoring our retail, office and restaurant sectors, as well as convention and event bookings, by connecting nearly 10,000 hotel rooms on the convenient route to major event centers such as the the LA Convention Center, Staples/LA Live, LA's Civic center, the Music Center, the Broadway Theatre District and most of DTLA's business improvement districts (see attached map). 2022 is an ideal year to finance the LA Streetcar, as it is well positioned to compete for and win upcoming federal funding grant opportunities in a Democratic-controlled Washington, DC and California.

As such, we support LA Streetcar Inc.'s (LASI) efforts to prepare a competitive grant and other funding applications to various agencies in 2022 – at both the State and Federal levels – to maximize key funding opportunities. Specifically, we are grateful for the continuing involvement of the Department of Transportation (LADOT) and Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering (LABOE) in the project, and the time and interest in a potential partnership between LASI and the Department of Water and Power (DWP) to seek funding for grid updates in the core of DTLA to support not only the streetcar, but other priority needs like the development of affordable housing, the growth of the City's electric bus system, utility reliability that will be needed to support the growth of Downtown anticipated in the DTLA 2040 plan, and new needs for energy that will be necessary for businesses to go back to in-person operations with enhancements like air filtration systems.

With your continued support, we believe Los Angeles can continue to be a model for the rest of the nation as we grapple with climate change, equity, transit accessibility, and modernization of our key infrastructure at all levels. We look forward to continuing our great work with you and your staff to make this dream a reality for DTLA.

Sincerely,



Claudia Oliveira
President,
DLANC



Debby Zhou
Chair,
DLANC Livability Committee

Cc: LA Streetcar Inc (via email)
Los Angeles Department of Transportation (via email)
Bureau of Engineering (via email)
Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (via email)