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August 12, 2025

**Re: CF 23-0790: Open Streets Grant Program / Cycle 5 / Express Lanes Grant / Round 3 / Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority**

To Whom It May Concern:

At a special public meeting on August 12, 2025, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to provide the following comments below:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council submits this Community Impact Statement **in support if amended** of CF 23-0790: Open Streets Grant Program / Cycle 5 / Express Lanes Grant / Round 3 / Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority.

The LA28 Olympic Games present an extraordinary and unique opportunity to implement legacy projects that enhance public space, create a sense of place, and showcase our incredible city, particularly Downtown Los Angeles, to the world.

The 1984 Olympic Games left a lasting impact on Los Angeles, demonstrating the City's ability to implement practical and forward-thinking infrastructure solutions under tight timelines. That legacy has positioned Los Angeles as a model for delivering impactful civic improvements that continue to benefit residents and visitors alike.

The *Wayfinding and Transit Amenities in Downtown LA* project, as referenced in the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) [report dated June 23, 2025](#), presents a similar opportunity. It has the potential to bring lasting investment to our urban core and improve the daily experience for residents, businesses, and visitors. As with any major infrastructure or placemaking effort, it is essential not only to design functional and aesthetically pleasing public spaces but also to ensure these amenities are easy to maintain, long-lasting, and supported well beyond the Summer Games. For instance, DTLA's 1,300 existing and aging wayfinding signs, installed as part of the [Downtown Los Angeles Walks](#) program from 2005 to 2006<sup>1</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> For additional information, see Council File 04-0458:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=04-0458>

illustrate both the success and challenges of managing signage in a dynamic urban environment. This underscores the critical need for continued investment in maintenance, updates, and long-term care of wayfinding infrastructure, challenges that are often compounded by the lack of ongoing funding or operational capacity.

Therefore, DLANC recommends that StreetsLA, LADOT, City Council and other City departments consider the following in reference to StreetsLA's report:

**Long-term Maintenance Planning & Investment:** City departments to factor maintenance and operational considerations into their planning for the proposed new overhead wayfinding signage and "Urban Panel" infrastructure proposed in the StreetsLA report. It is essential that clear maintenance plans and responsible maintenance entities be identified from the outset, and that futureproofing strategies be fully integrated into both the design and post-installation phases to ensure lasting functionality and effectiveness over the assets lifetime.

**Refurbishing Existing Legacy Assets:** Explore upgrading or refurbishing Downtown's existing wayfinding system and take a holistic approach to addressing legacy signage and infrastructure assets, including LADOT's Changeable/Variable Message Signs, which can be retrofitted, reused, and repurposed to support new wayfinding efforts without significant capital investment, to better serve both the Games and the broader Downtown community.

**Meaningful Community Engagement:** Create a Downtown-focused Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) or Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to ensure that Downtown LA-specific considerations are fully incorporated into both the implementation and long-term planning of this infrastructure. It is also vital that key stakeholders, including Business Improvement Districts, Neighborhood- Councils, and other community-based organizations, are engaged early in the design and planning process as these organizations bring essential, on-the-ground expertise and will play a crucial role in the stewardship, maintenance, and overall success of these legacy projects over time.

The Downtown community is excited and prepared to once again welcome the world for the Olympics. We look forward to working in close collaboration with the City and our partners to enhance livability and secure continued investment in our neighborhoods for years to come.

Sincerely,

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY DLANC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON AUGUST 12, 2025\***

Jens Midthun  
President,  
DLANC

Cc:

- Office of the Mayor (via email)
- Council District 1 (via email)
- Council District 9 (via email)
- Council District 14 (via email)
- Bureau of Street Services (via email)
- Los Angeles Department of Transportation (via email)
- City Tourism Department (via email)